



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

February 2019

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church | Morgantown, WV

## THE RECTOR'S CORNER

This past weekend I was given a copy of *The Canterbury Cross* with a front page article titled "Goal: New Priest by Spring 2017." That was from October 2016. Fast forward 2.3 years and, well, here we are. If you're wondering why we are still searching, that's a very fair question. Here's my take . . . .

### Why?

**There is a clergy shortage.** Parishes in search of the best person to lead them into the future are in a competitive space right now. Even with some churches closing and some no longer able to call a full-time priest, the high number of retirements in the Boomer generation is far outpacing the number of people joining the clergy. Please pray for and encourage young people to explore a call to ordained ministry!

**The right candidate has not yet emerged.** In 2018, three candidates (four people) were considered by the vestry. The first one met with a small sub-committee and they decided the candidate was not a good fit. The vestry fully agreed with this. The second, a clergy couple, visited Morgantown and decided it was not the right call for them. Finally, the last candidate was brought into town, after several months of back and forth conversation, but ultimately the vestry made the hard but unanimous and correct determination that this candidate was not the right fit either.

**Some resources for searching haven't been explored yet.** During the past two years the Diocese's model, which calls for the Bishop to serve as the "headhunter" to find and screen all potential candidates, has been limited to recommendations and personal contacts. Beginning this year, new tools, mostly on the internet, will be implemented to cast a much wider net.

### Why Not?

**The Bishop doesn't like us.** Having talked with Bishop Mike I know he thinks the world of St. Thomas à Becket. I believe he is trying hard to find the right priest for us.

The Vestry is being too picky. Ordinarily after a few passes on prospects I would think the same thing about a parish. I genuinely don't believe it's the case here. I've witnessed the vestry embark on each potential name with great hope and a desire that they might be finding who we need. It just hasn't been right yet.

**There's something wrong with the parish and it's keeping prospects away.** Don't think that. Not. For. One. Second. Can every parish improve on something? Sure. But the wonderful group of saints assembled here is evident to those who get to see it.

This parish doesn't simply need a priest but the right match and, thanks be to God, our situation allows us to be discerning and hopeful. So for now I propose a new goal: Be Church Together Today, Continue To Work Hard To Find The Right Priest In The Days To Come, And Believe In God's Love For This Place ALWAYS.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tony+

## NEW VESTRY LINEUP

### TERM ENDING 2020

PJ Henry  
Rebecca Krehbiel  
Richard Morris  
Kristina Smith

SENIOR WARDEN  
Richard Morris

### TERM ENDING 2021

Amanda Bostian  
Linda Durfee  
Cary Johnson  
Neha Lal

JUNIOR WARDEN  
Kathy Fedan

VESTRY SECRETARY  
Greg Elmes

### TERM ENDING 2022

Carol Beall  
Mark Dutkevicz  
Greg Elmes  
Kathy Fedan

TREASURER  
PJ Henry

## AMY MARSHALL ROBBINS



Amy Louise Marshall Robbins, 46, died on January 26, 2019 at J. W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. She did her best to beat the harsh statistics after receiving her diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, and always kept a positive attitude and faith in whatever was to come. She will be remembered for her happiness, joy of life, and the love of her family and friends.

Amy's full obituary can be read at [hastingsfuneralhome.com](http://hastingsfuneralhome.com)

Services were held on Friday, February 1 at Hastings Funeral Home in Morgantown, and on Saturday, February 2 at St. Thomas à Becket.

In lieu of flowers, Amy requested donations in her honor could be made to On Eagles' Wings Therapeutic Horsemanship (371 Opekiska Ridge Road Fairmont, WV 26554), Peterkin Camp (286 Clubhouse Road Romney, WV 26757), or Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council (321 Virginia St. Charleston, WV 25302).

## 13TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEON



**Empty Bowls™**  
— MONONGALIA —

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

11:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center at  
Mylan Park (111 Mylan Park Lane)**

With a minimum donation of \$20, you select and take home a ceramic bowl handcrafted by WVU, local potters, and school children to remind you that today you made a difference!

Tickets available online at [ebmon.org](http://ebmon.org) or at St. Thomas à Becket.

Children 10 and under eat free. Walk-ins and takeout served as available. *Please not that children eating free will not receive a bowl.*

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Through education and continued community involvement, Empty Bowls Monongalia will provide resources and broker assistance to Monongalia County agencies supporting individuals and families threatened by food insecurity.

## WAY OF LOVE WALK TO ADDRESS WV OPIOID CRISIS

*From Episcopal News Service*

Lay and ordained people from across the greater Mid Atlantic region are scheduled to walk the Way of Love on March 25-26 as pilgrims to a West Virginia town hit hard by the tragedy of the opioid epidemic: Huntington. Organized by the Episcopal Church Province III Task Force on Responding to the Opioid Epidemic, the pilgrims will visit places where the local community has found innovative, compassionate ways to respond to the wave of addiction that has claimed the lives and loved ones of too many residents of the town.

According to the Mayor's Office of Drug Control Policy Strategic Plan, more than 10% of the population of Huntington is addicted to opioids. For 2016, 1,476 drug overdose incidents were reported in Cabell County—a 443% increase over 2014. Widely regarded as "Ground Zero" for the Opioid epidemic in the United States, community leaders in Huntington acknowledged the grave situation early and is becoming an example for other communities seeking to offer a caring response, prevention strategies, and recovery resources that really serve individuals and families in need. Pilgrims will walk in the Way of Love through Huntington together: crossing boundaries, listening deeply, and living like Jesus. (For more information on the Way of Love, see: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love> )

The Way of Love journey will lead pilgrims through places of prayer and witness, offering time to listen to stories, hear recent research findings, and learn more about productive programs inside and outside of church buildings. Featured guests include: the Right Reverend Mike Klusmeyer, Bishop of West Virginia who founded the task force in May 2017; Rebecca Crowder, Executive Director of Lily's Place, a facility that cares for infants facing neo-natal abstinence syndrome; The Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director West Virginia Council of Churches; and other local leaders from the faith and region.

## 2019 MINISTRY LEADERS

**Acolytes** | Bob Acciavatti  
auriebob@comcast.net 304-292-0036

**Altar Guild** | Alice Meehan  
aew107@aol.com 304-284-8758

**Coffee Hour** | Kathy Fedan  
intothewoods@frontiernet.net 304-864-0105

**Columbarium Committee** | Richard Morris  
morrisrr10@gmail.com 412-979-0217

**Director of Music** | Bill Haller  
bill.haller@comcast.net 304-282-3540

**Fellowship** | Cary Johnson  
cary\_j99@yahoo.com 304-291-6971

**Finance** | Matt Heiskell  
mheiskell@spilmanlaw.com 304-292-3287

**Greeters & Ushers** | Corey Farris  
corey.farris@mail.wvu.edu 304-296-8470

**Liturgical Ministries** | Dn. Al Prichard  
ahprichard@gmail.com 304-594-2134

**Outreach** | Grace Ayscue  
grace.ayscue@gmail.com 304-276-8037

**Property Committee** | Kathy Fedan  
intothewoods@frontiernet.net 304-864-0105

**Special Events** | Neha Lal  
marlin.and.neha@gmail.com 443-562-4016

**Stewardship** | Jeff Fedan  
intothewoods@frontiernet.net 304-864-0105

**Sunday School** | Ann Claycomb  
annclaycomb@hotmail.com 304-276-2012

**Youth Church** | Angela Carver  
mamacarver@gmail.com 304-381-2607

## BLUEGRASS CONCERT

On Sunday, Feb. 17th, the Becket Arts Series will present the WVU Bluegrass and Old-Time Band. The WVU Bluegrass and Old-Time Band performs a wide range of music drawn from traditional Appalachian styles as well as contemporary bluegrass music. Directed by Dr. Travis Stimeling, the group performs regularly in schools around the state, sharing these musical traditions with the next generation of traditional musicians. We've had them once before and they are terrific! The concert begins at 3:00 pm. Tickets are available at the door. General adult admission is \$8.00, seniors \$6.00, and all students are free. Those holding season tickets may bring up to 10 guests for free.

### BECKET ARTS CONCERT

**WVU BLUEGRASS BAND**

**SUN. FEB. 17 / 3:00 PM  
@ ST. THOMAS**

**TICKETS \$8.00 EACH**



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.



## 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.*

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

75 Old Cheat Road, Morgantown WV 26508

Phone: 304.296.0270 Email: [thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com](mailto:thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com)

[www.thomasabecket.org](http://www.thomasabecket.org)

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Episcopal Church*



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