



October 2023

The Canterbury Cross

Monthly newsletter of St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church
Morgantown, WV

The Rector's Corner

Over the past several weeks, I have been nearly overwhelmed with a profound sense of gratitude for the many ways you have welcomed me and made me feel at home. Your kindness to me is a debt I can never fully repay, though I'll try my best to reciprocate your kindness with my own. Having this strong sense of gratitude has gotten me thinking about how as Christians we are meant to live life full of gratitude for all the many blessings God has showered upon us.

From the things we take for granted, like food, shelter, clean water, sanitation, to the things that baffle us, like the mystery of God's ever-flowing grace, our hearts ought to burst with thanksgiving. We see this manifest in worship where our responses and singing are powerful and authentic. We see it in the persistent care we offer to those whom Christ described as "the least of these" [Matthew 25]. We see it in the joyous fellowship we share and the many special occasions we celebrate.

For gratitude brings joy, like a child on Christmas morning, full of surprise and delight and wonder at the gifts so freely given. And if our joy is in Christ, which it is, then it never ends. The joy just keeps on coming, like waves at a beach.

Sometimes, though, our joy slacks off, even among the most cheerful of us. We can't live in pure joy perpetually. That's for another time and place, when our journey here is done. Shadows fall, and we feel afraid or anxious. In these times, it's important to remem-

ber what we're grateful for, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant. It's important to recall and treasure those gestures of kindness we receive, and the love that stands behind them.

But most of all, we need to be mindful of Jesus and the sacrifices he made to save us. To be mindful of Jesus and aware of his unending presence within us and among us helps disperse the clouds of life and bring back the sunlight of gratitude and joy which are at the heart of our faith and help us make it through the day, come what may.

—The Rev. Michael L. Delk



Annual Thanksgiving Basket Schedule

By Aurie Acciavatti

Once again, the Outreach Committee will be asking the parish to help prepare 35 Thanksgiving baskets for Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSB) families. This is a big undertaking and everyone in the parish is encouraged to participate. Please note the dates and plan to participate as you are able.

October 29: First distribution of food bags.

November 5: Second distribution of food bags.

November 12: Deadline for all food/monetary donations to be delivered to the church. Sort and invento-

ry food.

November 17: Pack Thanksgiving baskets at the church at 6:00 pm. Pizza and juice will be served. This night is for everyone in the congregation to help.

November 19: Distribute baskets from 12:30–2:00 pm. Families will come to St. Thomas.

Contact Aurie Acciavatti with questions:
auriebob@comcast.net / 304-276-3022

Stay tuned for November's newsletter article for more details about this annual outreach project!



Milestone Birthdays

By Aurie Acciavatti

Jim Evans celebrated his 97th birthday on August 9th. He has been coming to St. Thomas for a couple of years after he and his wife Irene moved to Harmony. He attended the beautiful Christ Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh where he was a lay reader and chalice bearer for over 50 years. He proudly wears his Episcopal church pin every Sunday. Happy birthday, Jim!

Ray Kesler celebrated his 97th birthday on August 10th. Ray and his wife Marie were founding members of St. Thomas. He has been a vestry member many times and a trustee for many years. He has helped to renovate and create many areas of the church including serving as Clerk of the Works when the new sanctuary, parish hall and parlor were constructed. Happy birthday, Ray!

Joyce Smyth just celebrated her 94th birthday on August 29th. She and her husband George were also founding members of St. Thomas. For many years she was our librarian. For ten years, Joyce was the director of the altar guild where she trained many of the current altar guild members. Joyce loves to come to the 8:00 service but for many years during COVID she could be seen sitting up front at the 10:30 service. Now she is back to 8:00. Happy birthday, Joyce!

John Pearson celebrated his 94th on August 17th and is another longtime member of St. Thomas. John is a lay reader. I love listening to him read with that British accent. He also helps with the altar guild. Happy Birthday, John!

Rose Marshall celebrated her 80th birthday on August 28th. She attended St. Thomas a few years with her daughter and her family, Amy/Jason Robbins and grandchildren James, Kate and Anna, before joining. Her decision to join was the caring spirit of the members who give so much in many ways to their community. To her it defined *Christian*. Unfortunately, Amy passed away a few years ago so Rose and her late husband George established the Amy Marshall Robbins Scholarship as her way to keep Amy's love of people and her giving spirit an ongoing gift to the members of the church community she so dearly loved. It is open to students of all ages and any pursuit to achieve growth in their chosen field. Happy birthday, Rose!

Cookie Schultz just celebrated her 80th birthday on Sept 15th. She and her husband Bernie attended occasional services with Alice and Jack Frost. The congregation at St Thomas always made them feel so welcome and there was one particular Sunday when they truly felt the spirit of God calling them to worship in this church. So here they are! Where you find Cookie you will also find Bernie. From the very beginning, Cookie and Bernie joined altar guild and the outreach committee. They also participate in the Monday morning bread runs to Rock Forge food pantry. During this past year, she has co-chaired the fellowship committee and sends out the monthly birthday cards. Finally, they have been engaged in learning about our faith through the various Bible study groups. "It has truly been a blessing to be a part of the vibrant community at Becket," says Cookie. Happy birthday, Cookie!



October Diaper Collection

Once again October is our parish's month to collect diapers for the Scott's Run Settlement House Baby Pantry.

Please place packs of diapers on the changing table in the parish hall. All sizes are welcome, and larger sizes (4 and up) are especially needed. Thank you!



United Thank Offering Boxes

By Grace Ayscue

You can show your gratitude for God's many blessings and help fund an innovative, themed service project by participating in the United Thank Offering this year. Blue UTO boxes are still available on the table in the narthex. When you think of something you're grateful for, toss some change or stuff a bill into your UTO box!

Please bring in your box for the Ingathering on either **October 15 or 22**. If you prefer to replace your cash with a check, please write it to St. Thomas à Becket Church with "UTO" in the memo line.



The offering from our parish, will be presented with others at the Diocesan Convention at the end of October and will go from there to the national UTO.

Tree of Life Congregation women are hosting a Women of Faith gathering this year at St. Mary's Peace Hall on October 5, 2023, at 4:30 pm with Morgantown religious leaders and women of their congregations. Donations this year will support the Rosensaum House.

September Vestry Meeting Highlights

By John McFerrin

Bernie Schultz opened the meeting with a prayer of Teresa Avila who lived in the 16th Century. The idea was that we are the hands, feet, and eyes of Christ in this world. If Christ is to act in this world it is through us.

Special guest Nancy Mosser reported on the foundation and crack monitoring. The surveyors have come and placed gauges as well as establishing data points both inside and outside the church. This will enable us to more precisely determine whether there is movement and whether cracks are getting wider and will inform future actions. We are also going to move forward with plans to seal the cracks that now exist.

We have \$265,000 in a checking account so we are

going to transfer \$50,000 to a six month certificate of deposit, \$50,000 to a nine month certificate of deposit, and \$50,000 to a twelve month certificate of deposit.

Although he was not there to present the report, Jeff Fedan reported that the Property Committee had been busy, painting, installing signs, having the mowers serviced, etc. The renovation of the rector's office is coming along; it is awaiting windows, doors, tile, carpet, and desk. We are also getting a new coffee maker, thanks to a generous gift.

In light of the new COVID variant and an increase in cases, we are going to re-establish the socially distanced area on the far left section of the church.

The new organ will arrive in late September or the early part of October.

Father Delk reported that he has been doing pastoral care, visiting newcomers, and meeting with committees. Attendance is on the rise; it is not a smooth, steady rise but on the whole the trend is upward.

He has ideas on stewardship. If we are going to have programs we need money to support them. He hopes to reconstitute the Stewardship Committee and meet soon with an idea of an ingathering on November 15.

Sunday School is going well. Attendance has been small but those leading it see a potential for growth. Father Delk has been facilitating the meetings of teachers and those interested. It would be good to have more teachers.

Scott Williams will be ordained as a deacon on October 28. Once that happens, he will no longer be a member of either St. Thomas à Becket or the vestry. Since our long term goal is to shrink the size of vestry, we are not going to replace him. We will wait until next meeting to decide who will be the new Secretary.



| Stewardship Giving Report | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| August* | Giving | Expenses | Variance |
| Monthly | \$15,648 | \$31,800 | \$(16,152) |
| 2023 YTD | \$171,942 | \$110,728 | \$61,214 |

* Amounts reflect balances as of August 30, 2023 from the Treasurer's report presented at the September 21, 2023 vestry meeting.

Sunday Worship Schedule

The Rev. Michael Delk, Rector
The Rev. Al Prichard, Deacon
Dr. William Haller, Director of Music

8:00 am Holy Eucharist I (in-person)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and
livestreamed on YouTube)
Children's Sunday School
Nursery Care



75 Old Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508
304.296.0270 | www.stthomasabecket.org
parish@stthomasabecket.org | rector@stthomasabecket.org



St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church
75 Old Cheat Road
Morgantown, WV 26508

October 2023

| S | M | T | W | R | F | S |
|---|---|----|--|--|----|---|
| 1 18 Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Galatians 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour | 2 Parish Hall RSVD: Spears | 3 | 4 | 5 Parish Hall RSVD: Racin | 6 | 7 |
| 8 19 Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Galatians 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour 2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals | 9 | 10 | 11 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSH | 12 | 13 | 14 Parish Hall, Kitchen RSVD: Fellowship |
| 15 20 Pentecost UTO Box Collection 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Galatians 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour | 16 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting (Zoom) | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting | 20 | 21 |
| 22 21 Pentecost UTO Box Collection 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 <hr/> Diocesan Convention | 27 | 28 |
| 29 17 Pentecost First distribution of Thanksgiving bags. 8:00 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist I (in-person and on YouTube) Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour | 30 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting | 31 | | | | |



Birthdays

- 3 - Beth O'Neil
- 4 - Carol Beall
- 8 - Rev. George Moses
- 9 - Linda Durfee
- 12 - Sarah Orner
- 18 - Florita Montgomery
- 19 - Karen Kostol
- 24 - PJ Henry
- 25 - Roy Spears
- 27 - Pat Stemple
- 27 - Bryan Tolka
- 30 - Dorothy Skidmore

Anniversaries

- 16 - PJ Henry & Jodi Richardson
- 19 - Berny Schreurs & Hayes Theiling Schreurs
- 21 - Jay & Rebecca Krehbiel
- 24 - Kevin & Alice Meehan

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed? Let us know!
 parish@stthomasabecket.org

Service Ministers' Schedule: October 2023

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>October 1 18 Pentecost</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Bob Acciavatti 8:00 am Reader: Beth O'Neil Acolytes: John Beall, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Coffee Hour: Seitz Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, PJ Henry Eucharistic Minister: John Beall</p> | <p>Intercessor: Carol Beall Producers: Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan Readers: Byron Nelson, Corey Farris Sunday School: Susan Seitz, Grace Ayscue Ushers: Corey Farris, Linda Yost Vestry Closer: Beth Royall</p> |
| <p>October 8 19 Pentecost</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Jeff Fedan 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti, Caroline Beddow Altar Guild: Alice, Hap, Mary Lou, Bernie, Cookie Coffee Hour: TBD Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Grace Ayscue Eucharistic Minister: Corey Farris</p> | <p>Intercessor: Kathy Fedan Producer: TBD Readers: Tom Waggoner, Lynda Waggoner Sunday School: Susan Seitz, Grace Ayscue Ushers: Roy Spears, Carol Roberts Spears Vestry Closer: Lynda Waggoner</p> |
| <p>October 15 20 Pentecost</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Carol Beall 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Natalie, Alice, John, Lynda Coffee Hour: Soup & Bread Luncheon (<i>tentative</i>) Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Carol Beall Eucharistic Minister: Jeff Fedan</p> | <p>Intercessor: Margot Racin Producer: Kevin Steurer Readers: Ginny Aultman-Moore, J. Aultman-Moore Sunday School: Susan Seitz, Angela Carver Ushers: Carolyn Nelson, Byron Nelson Vestry Closer: TBD</p> |
| <p>October 22 21 Pentecost</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: A. Nicely 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: A. Nicely, Bob Acciavatti, Theo Tolka Altar Guild: Grace, Anne, Patty, Susan Coffee Hour: Sullivan, Schultz, Nelson Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Linda Durfee Eucharistic Ministers: Tara Steed</p> | <p>Intercessor: Aurie Acciavatti Producer: TBD Readers: A. Nicely, Grace Ayscue Sunday School: TBD Ushers: Kathy Fedan, David Sullivan Vestry Closer: Grace Ayscue</p> |
| <p>October 29 22 Pentecost</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Tara Steed 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Grace, Anne, Patty, Susan Coffee Hour: Aultman-Moore Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Carol Roberts Spears Eucharistic Minister: Carol Beall</p> | <p>Intercessor: John Beall Producers: Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan Readers: Paul Henneberger, Linda Durfee Sunday School: TBD Ushers: Angela Carver, Maddie Carver Vestry Closer: Corey Farris</p> |