

November 2023

# The Canterbury Cross

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

## The Rector's Corner

Happy All Saints' Day

If you define time, you define reality. That's one reason why the Church has its own calendar, full of fasts and feasts and oddly-named days, like the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost and Ember Days and Rogation Days and, of course, saint days. Each one of these dates has its own particular meaning, its own special idea or thing or person or event to celebrate.

All Saints' Day lands on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the secular calendar. However, being a moveable feast means that you can shift it to the next Sunday, so we'll celebrate it on November 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas à Becket, along with all of our sister parishes throughout the Episcopal Church. All Saints' Day is a really big deal, because it's one of the seven Principal Feasts observed in the Church, right up there with Christmas, the Epiphany, Easter Day, Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday.

All Saints' gives us an opportunity to mourn losses, cherish memories, and celebrate the loved and lost, along with all the saints of God. It



also grants us an occasion to pause and consider where we are in our own course of life. The Collect probably says it best. "Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you . . ."

All Saints' also grants great comfort. As another Collect puts it: "Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy." Whenever I pray that prayer, it feels as if a warm quilt has wrapped itself around me on a cold day. To know that we are never alone, but always surrounded by this divine fellowship that breaches the border of death and the world's divisions, is an immense blessing.

I hope you make a special effort to join in worship for All Saints' Day, just as you would for Christmas or Easter. It's a unique moment in the life of our Church and works in so many ways for so many different people to bring peace and even joy.

—The Rev. Michael L. Delk



# Thanksgiving Baskets

By Aurie Acciavatti

## Dates

- Oct. 29** Pick up grocery sacks with food lists from church.
- Nov. 5** Pick up grocery sacks with food lists from church.
- Nov. 12** Deadline for all food donations/monetary donations to be delivered to church.  
Sort and inventory food after church.
- Nov. 17** Pack Thanksgiving baskets at church at 6:00 pm.  
*Pizza and juice will be served. This night is for everyone in the congregation to help.*
- Nov. 19** Distribute baskets from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.  
Families will come to St. Thomas.

St. Thomas à Becket has pledged once again to prepare Thanksgiving Baskets for 33 families through Scott's Run Settlement House.

**Please donate only the items on the list of food.** (This is not the time to clean out the pantry. Extra food donations are always appreciated, but that extra food can be placed in the food bin at other times of the year.)

Parishioners are asked to purchase gift cards from Kroger, Giant Eagle, or Aldi to be used by the families toward the purchase of a turkey or ham (only \$5 or \$10 amounts, please). Write the value of the gift card on each card, and please include the receipt.

If you are not comfortable shopping, you can make a donation to the project by writing a check with "Thanksgiving Baskets" in the memo line or give online via Tithe.ly (choose "Thanksgiving Basket fund"). Any amount you can give will be appreciated. We estimate the cost of a basket of food and gift card for a "typical" family will cost \$80. Any excess will be donated to SRSB to be used for additional families.

**All food and donations are due by Sunday, November 12.**

Please refer any questions or if you need food to be picked up, contact Aurie Acciavatti at 304-276-3022 or aurielbob@comcast.net

This project is a huge undertaking and many volunteers are needed.



## Food Needed for Thanksgiving Baskets

The Outreach Committee will purchase onions, celery, butter, eggs, rolls, and fruit.

- **Gift cards** to purchase a turkey or ham from Kroger/Giant Eagle/ALDI (write amount on the card. \$5 or \$10)
- Bag of **potatoes** or box of instant potatoes
- **Pumpkin pie mix** (check label to see if evaporated/condensed milk is also needed)
- **Canned milk**
- **Sugar**
- **Stuffing/dressing**
- **Cranberry sauce**
- **Coffee**
- **Canned vegetables**
- **Canned fruit**
- **Flour**
- **Dessert** (cake mix, cookies, or baking supplies)
- **Noodles**
- Disposable turkey roasting **pan**
- **Gravy**
- **Sweet potatoes**

# Grow in Christ: Diocesan Convention

By Linda Durfee

*Grow in Christ: The 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia.*

This year's convention, held in Martinsburg, included Evening Prayer at Trinity Church; Noonday Prayer and lunch at historic Christ Church, Bunker Hill ("Morgan's Chapel"); a keynote address by the Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town, Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; and Holy Eucharist and the ordination of eight deacons (including Scott Williams) at Trinity Church.

In addition to the usual matters, our business included the passage of two timely resolutions:

*Resolved, That this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urge all member Episcopalians to work toward and pray for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict in the Middle East which directly affects the safety of innocent Israelis and Palestinians.*

*Resolved, That this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urge all member Episcopalians to pray for all victims of gun violence, including those in Lewiston, Maine, and those to come.*

We also passed a resolution requesting that Bishop Cowden establish a task force to review the current diocesan Deanery structure and to make recommendations to the 147<sup>th</sup> Convention for how the Diocese can more effectively serve its member churches and people.

Attendees from St. Thomas à Becket were Father Michael, Deacon Al, delegates Linda Durfee and Jeff Fedan, and guests Cheryl Prichard and Kathy Fedan. We all enjoyed working and worshipping with our fellow Episcopalians from around the Diocese on a beautiful fall weekend.

The 147<sup>th</sup> Convention will be held at Stonewall Resort on November 1-2, 2024.



From left: Fr. Michael Delk, delegate Linda Durfee, delegate Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan, Cheryl Prichard, Dn. Al Prichard.



From left: delegate Jeff Fedan, delegate Linda Durfee, Fr. Michael Delk, Dn. Al Prichard.



Bishop Matthew Cowden with newly-ordained deacons, including our own Scott Williams.

# All Saints' Day & Organ Recital



We will observe All Saints' Day Sunday, November 5 (which is also the end of Daylight Savings Time).

During the liturgy, as parishioners come up for communion, you are invited to also light a candle in memory of loved ones who have passed.

After the service, we will have a potluck lunch, and Bill Haller will give an organ recital at 3:00 pm.

## Organ Recital

William Haller will present an organ recital here at St. Thomas on Sunday November 5 at 3:00 pm. The recital is free and open to the public.

The recital consists of "the other" Toccata in D minor by Bach, called the "Dorian," the "Fantaisie in C" by Cesar Franck, the Sonata II by Max Reger, and a newly composed piece by Morgantown's John Beall, Fantasy on a Hymn Tune. The recital will be played on the Allen Organ GX-335e with added GenYsis voices. The organ was donated to the church by an anonymous person. This will be a dedicating event for this instrument.

William Haller, FAGO and DMA in organ performance has had a career in playing and teaching organ, music history and music theory at Texas Woman's University, Capital University in Columbus Ohio and West Virginia University.



## Our Columbarium at St. Thomas à Becket

By the Columbarium Committee

The term "columbarium" comes from the Latin "columba," meaning dove because columbaria usually have niches to hold the urns that resemble those in dovecotes. A columbarium is a space designated for the interment of the cremated remains of those who have died.

The columbarium at St. Thomas is a small light-filled room located in the office area just off the library. Our columbarium has also served as a chapel space



for weekday Eucharists and other devotional or meditative services. The vault is visible behind the altar as a central panel of marble flanked by warm wood tones of oak. It consists of simple marble squares that can be removed for the interment of urns engraved with the name and the birth and death years of each person interred there. Individual niches have space for either two or four urns.

Parishioners interred in the vault are also commemorated in a memorial book filled with pictures, testimonials, and clippings that tell the story of their lives. As we celebrate All Saints' Day, it is a natural occasion to reflect upon death and to consider the blessing of the columbarium at St. Thomas. Members of the Columbarium Committee as well as our rector are available to talk to anyone interested in the columbarium and to answer questions one might have.

Thank you for your United Thank Offering donations. We donated \$758.14 this year, which is more than twice as much as last year!



## October Vestry Meeting Highlights

By John McFerrin

Special guest Jerrey Hoyt presented the report of the Finance Committee. We have received the report of the audit of church finances for 2022. There were no issues. The fact that there were no issues is a tribute to Linda Yost who was treasurer during that time.

Because the organ, as delivered, had an additional feature that was not included in the original estimate, the total cost was \$4,165 more than the vestry had previously authorized to spend. Jerrey is confident that he can raise this sum by talking to individual parishioners.

The Property Committee has, as usual, been busy bees. There is a new ceiling light in the library, concrete sealant installed at the church entrance, lawn mowers and the Memorial Garden, winterized, cracks sealed in the sanctuary floor, and installation of a new coffee maker. Jeff Fedan also reported that we need new members for the snow squad.

We have discovered the presence of a hunting blind on our property. We dismantled the blind and are going to post signs. The signs will definitely prohibit hunting and fishing. There was some discussion of whether they should specifically prohibit trespassing. Churches have a long tradition of being welcoming places, open to everyone. Specifically prohibiting trespassing is contrary to that tradition. We are going to put up signs that prohibit hunting but do not specifically prohibit trespassing.

Jeff is in discussions with a donor who has agreed to pay to spruce up the Memorial Garden. The improvements would include replacing the lattice work, lifting some bricks so that the surface is flat, and addressing problems with blocks that are deteriorating. It would cost about \$16,500.

Nancy and Mike Mosser have done some trimming of bushes around the church.

We have an election of new vestry members coming up at the annual meeting in January. Since we decided to shrink the size of the vestry, we will only be electing three new members.

Because the vestry will have fewer members, we need to adjust the number of members to constitute a quorum. **At the annual meeting in January the congregation will consider an amendment to Article V, Section 8 of the bylaws, replacing, "Seven members of the Vestry shall constitute a quorum for conducting business." with "More than half of the members of the Vestry shall constitute a quorum for conducting business."**

As part of the Diocesan Convention, Scott Williams will be ordained as a deacon. Once that happens, Scott will no longer be a member of St. Thomas à Becket, including being a member of the vestry or its Secretary. Bernie Schultz won election to replace Scott as Secretary.



Stewardship Giving Report			
September*	Giving	Expenses	Variance
Monthly	\$14,666	\$13,846	<b>\$820</b>
2023 YTD	\$186,608	\$124,574	<b>\$62,034</b>

\* Amounts reflect balances as of September 30, 2023 from the Treasurer's report presented at the October 19, 2023 vestry meeting.



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

75 Old Cheat Road  
Morgantown, WV 26508

304.296.0270

parish@stthomasabecket.org  
rector@stthomasabecket.org  
www.stthomasabecket.org

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am **Holy Eucharist Rite I**  
in-person only

9:00 am **Adult Formation**

**Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
in-person and livestreamed on  
YouTube

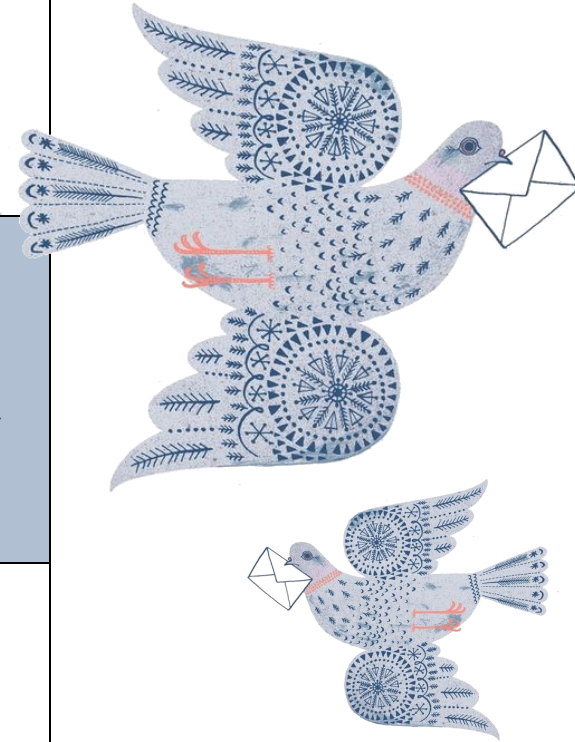
10:30 am *Nursery Care*  
*Children's Sunday School*  
**Coffee Hour** after service



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

# November 2023

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	4 Kitchen, parish hall RSVD: Fellowship Sunday School room RSVD: Fedan
<b>5   All Saints' Day</b> Second distribution of Thanksgiving bags 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> James 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Children's Sunday School</b> <b>Potluck Lunch</b> 3:00 pm <b>Organ Recital</b> by Dr. Bill Haller	6 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	7	8 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSB	9	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>
<b>12   24 Pentecost</b> Deadline for Thanksgiving Basket food/monetary donations 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> James 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Children's Sunday School</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b>	13	14	15	16 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	17 6:00 pm Pack Thanksgiving Baskets	18
<b>19   25 Pentecost</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> James 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Children's Sunday School</b> 12:30 - 2:00 pm <b>Distribute Thanksgiving Baskets</b>	20 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting ( <a href="#">Zoom</a> )	21	22	23 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	24	25
<b>26   Christ the King</b> First distribution of Thanksgiving bags. 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> James 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Children's Sunday School</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b>	27 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	28	29	30		



### Birthdays

- 1 - Michael Sharley
- 3 - Neha Lal
- 9 - Jerrey Hoyt
- 12 - Jeffrey Carver
- 23 - Jeff O'Neil
- 25 - Liz Smailes
- 26 - Shannon Brown
- 26 - Bernie Schultz
- 27 - Benjamin Orner
- 28 - Nancy Walker
- 29 - Spencer Stemple

### Anniversaries

- 6 - Jim & Betsy Sharley

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

# Service Ministers' Schedule: November 2023

<p><b>November 5</b> <i>All Saints' Day</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: John Beall 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: John Beall, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Coffee Hour: Potluck Luncheon Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Nancy Mosser Eucharistic Minister: Corey Farris</p>	<p>Intercessor: Kathy Fedan Producer: Nancy Mosser Readers: Dan Bryan, Angela Carver Sunday School: Ushers: Hap Rudolph, Mary Lou Rudolph Vestry Closer: <b>TBD</b></p>
<p><b>November 12</b> <i>24 Pentecost</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Bob Acciavatti 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: A. Nicely, Bob Acciavatti, Caroline Beddow Altar Guild: Alice, Hap, Mary Lou, Bernie, Cookie Coffee Hour: Tolkas Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Carol Beall Eucharistic Minister: Tara Steed</p>	<p>Intercessor: Carol Beall Producer: Lisa Holland Readers: Beth Royall, John Beall Sunday School: Ushers: Angela Carver, Maddie Carver Vestry Closer: <b>TBD</b></p>
<p><b>November 19</b> <i>25 Pentecost</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Jeff Fedan 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti, Theo Tolka Altar Guild: Natalie, Alice, John, Lynda Coffee Hour: Distribute Thanksgiving Baskets Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, Carol Spears Eucharistic Minister: Grace Ayscue</p>	<p>Intercessor: Kathy Fedan Producer: Lisa Holland Readers: John Taylor, Aurie Acciavatti Sunday School: Ushers: Carolyn Nelson, Byron Nelson Vestry Closer: Grace Ayscue</p>
<p><b>November 26</b> <i>Christ the King</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Carol Beall 8:00 am Reader: Acolytes: A. Nicely, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Grace, Anne, Patty, Susan Coffee Hour: <b>TBD</b> Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Aurie Acciavatti Eucharistic Ministers: A. Nicely</p>	<p>Intercessor: Aurie Acciavatti Producer: Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan Readers: Linda Durfee, John Pearson Sunday School: Ushers: Roy Spears, Carol Roberts Spears Vestry Closer: <b>TBD</b></p>