



February 2024

The Canterbury Cross

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

Rector's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, we embark on our annual adventure called Lent. This season offers us an opportunity to focus on repenting of our sins and returning to right relationship with God. It is also a chance to offer sacrifice, by abstaining from something we enjoy, or by renewing our commitment to regular prayer or spiritual study. Through the forty days of Lent, we are given the time to reconcile ourselves to God and neighbor, and to grow in our faith. It is a season of intensification, whereby we immerse ourselves once again into our relationship with God.

It begins on Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes, accompanied by those dreadful words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This reminds us that all of us will someday die, and the interval between now and then provides a precious opportunity to practice our faith with the awareness that our salvation comes from the generous grace of God. It is a time to embrace our mortality and make the most out of the life we have been given.

Lent is also an ideal time to seek out The Reconciliation of the Penitent, often more commonly known as Confession, an experience where we confess our sins in the presence of a priest and seek absolution. This is a powerful and relieving rite, and I encourage you to consider including it in your Lenten observance.

Do not let these special days pass you by, but treasure them. Lent is aimed at transformation, which brings joy, freedom, and peace.

Peace,

The Reverend Michael L. Delk
Rector

Milestone Birthdays

By Aurie Acciavatti and Margot Racin

Parishioners celebrated four Milestone birthdays at the December 11 coffee hour.

Betsy Sharley, whose 80th birthday fell during COVID, was celebrated first. Betsy and Jim have attended since the first services of St. Thomas in 1979. Betsy typed our first newsletters, was active in ECW until it was disbanded, and volunteered for every fundraiser. Betsy and Jim served on the weekly church cleaning crews in the years before we hired professional cleaners. Both the Sharleys' children, Susan and Michael, and both their grandchildren, Caleb and Sadie, were baptized at St. Thomas. Betsy and Jim continue to be steady, valued St. Thomas members.

John and Carol Beall have been with us since we began. **Carol Beall**, who was 80 on October 4, has shared her extraordinary musical gifts with us for many years as organist, choir director, performer and supporter of the Becket Arts series. Carol shows up for fundraising and work days wherever she's needed, whether it's sorting quilting material or planting bulbs. Carol has served twice as senior warden and on

two rector search committees. Carol has also served on discernment committees for those considering ordination and also on the Diocese Committee on Ministry. Carol's deep spirituality and calm demeanor (as well as her ready sense of humor!) continue to serve both our parish and the diocese.

Jerrey Hoyt, who turned 80 on November 9, is a cradle Episcopalian from Rochester, NY who first worshipped with St. Thomas at the Old Chapel of Drummond Church in 1979. When Jerrey's mother came to see what an Episcopal church could be in West Virginia, Jerrey was especially grateful to Virginia Reynolds, Alice Frost, and all for gracious West Virginia hospitality. Jerrey and Becky made substantial contributions to St. Thomas over many years. Jerrey has served as senior warden, as visiting eucharistic minister, as chair of the Columbarium, Special Events, Budget, and Fellowship committees. Jerrey chaired the building fundraising efforts which resulted in the beautiful worship spaces and Parlor we have today. When reminded of these contributions, Jerrey replied, "That pales beside what's most important: when I think of St. Thomas, I think of the amazing, caring, generous members who have supported and continue to support me and others through triumph and tragedy. I thank them for many meaningful gifts."

Cheryl and **Al Prichard** joined St Thomas in 1980. Al, who turned 80 on December 17, sang in the choir, was active in ECM, and served as reader, intercessor, and eucharistic minister. Since his joyous ordination to Deacon in 2011, Al has scheduled others in these duties and preached sermons which remind us of our calling to love and serve all our neighbors. Recognizing his talents, Bishop Klusmeyer appointed Al to lead potential Deacons in the Iona inquiry. Al's passion is service. Al and Cheryl joined the St. Thomas Empty Bowls crew in 2008 and ran the kitchen for over 10 years, serving as cheerleaders for our large crew. Al has been chair of the Outreach committee and continues to serve Rock Forge, Community Kitchen, and Scott's Run charities. Where there is a need, Al serves, whether it be on the roof of a trailer being rehabbed for a widow or wielding a hammer on a Habitat building site.

Deacon Al has the last word closing every worship service: "Our Worship is ended but our work is not. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord"

Following the introductions and delicious birthday cake, we joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to these treasured members of our parish and wished them many more years among us.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 13

5:30–7:00 pm

Cost: \$7 per person

Proceeds will go toward the ECM Peterkin Scholarship Fund to help our parish youth attend summer camps.



Feb. 11 Souper Bowl of Caring

By Aurie Acciavatti

The Souper Bowl of Caring all started in 1990 with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" as delivered to a small youth group led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grassroots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good.

It's that time of year again when you get to vote for the team you would like to win the

Super Bowl. On **February 11** as you leave church you are asked to put one dollar (or more) into the soup can of your favorite team. All monies collected will be donated to the Community Kitchen, Inc. Any cans of soup collected will be donated to Rock Forge Food Pantry.

The Community Kitchen is a nonprofit organization established in 1984 with a focused goal—to help the less fortunate members of our community. The Kitchen provides a safe, clean uplifting environment




for those in need of a nutritional meal five days a week. It serves the homeless, the working poor, the unemployed, and their families. In short, people who through no fault of their own find themselves in crisis. As with all nonprofits, the Community Kitchen always finds itself in need of funds.

Since 2003, when St. Thomas started being part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, over \$3,000.00 has been donated to the Community Kitchen. Let's see how much we can contribute this year.

Annual Meeting and New Vestry

At the Annual Meeting on January 28 Ginny Aultman-Moore, Nancy Mosser and Kevin Steurer were elected by acclamation to serve on the vestry for a three-year term (2024-2026).

Fr. Michael gave outgoing vestry members (Grace Ayscue, Corey Farris, Alice Meehan, and Lynda Waggoner) copies of *The Seven Storey Mountain: An Autobiography of Faith* by Thomas Merton. For his three years as Senior Warden, the vestry gave Corey Farris a framed print of the church steeple, signed by the vestry, and a giftcard to West Virginia state parks.



Ash Wednesday

February 14

7:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm

Brentano String Quartet Concert

The one and only Brentano Quartet performs live on **Feb. 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm** here at St. Thomas à Becket.

Tickets can be purchased on the Summit Chamber Music Series website [here](#).

Mark Steinberg, Violin
Serena Canin, Violin
Misha Amory, Viola
Nina Lee, Cello



"Magnificent ... The Brentanos [are] the talk of the chamber music community."
—*Kansas City Star*

"Exemplary performances ... startling musical revelations."
— *The Guardian* (London)



From left: Lynda Waggoner, Grace Ayscue, Corey Farris, Rev. Michael Delk. Foreground: Jim Sharley. Photo by Jeff Fedan.

The current Vestry is:

Senior Warden: Bernie Schultz
Junior Warden: Jeff Fedan
Vestry Secretary: Kevin Steurer
Treasurer: Beth Royall

Ginny Aultman-Moore
Marlin Dehoff
PJ Henry
Lisa Holland
Nancy Mosser
Bryan Tolka

Convention Delegates: Linda Durfee, Jeff Fedan
Convention Alternates: John Beall, Kathy Fedan
Deanery Representative: Alice Meehan

Nightwatch Youth Retreat at St. Matthew's

Adopt-a-Family

NIGHTWATCH

Stay overnight at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
in Wheeling, WV! ✦



Arrival: Saturday 24th
at 4pm.

Departure: Sunday 25th
at 12pm.

Ages: 6th -12th Grade

A Youth Retreat With
Community Building, Music,
Fun Activities, & a Labyrinth Walk

Register online at www.stmatts.com!

Gather with youth from around the diocese at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Wheeling, West Virginia on Saturday, February 24 for an overnight retreat for students in grades 6-12. Using Nightwatch NYC held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine as a model, leaders will offer interactive activities as youth explore the church, eat together, hang out and talk together about demystifying the season of Lent, and experience it for what it is... a season of renewal and growth in our faith life.

Our retreat planning team includes Director of Religious Education Breellen Flemming from Trinity, Parkersburg, Peterkin Executive Director Jim Cormack, 2023 Peterkin Counselor Jacob Hall, Deacon Andy Bird from St. Timothy's in Hurricane, and the Rev. Joshua Saxe, Rector of St. Matthew's in Wheeling.

For more information, please reach out to Fr. Josh at rector@stmatts.com.

To register, find the link at www.stmatts.com.

Thank you to the more than 40 families and individuals who contributed to our annual Adopt-a-Family outreach project. Fourteen bags, baskets, bins, and buckets of items were donated, along with generous amounts in giftcards. This family was not expecting to be able to celebrate Christmas this year, and the father of the family was especially touched by the generosity. Thank you!



December & January Vestry Meeting Highlights

December Highlights adapted from minutes taken by Bernie Schultz

The Becket Organ Fund is expected to be completed by December 30, 2023.

The Pledge Report (as of December 17, 2023) is looking healthy. We currently have 40 pledges and that number is expected to increase to 50. Regular offerings have increased to \$229,274 and Capital offerings to \$18,600. In addition, as of December 17, 2023, non-pledged offerings from 2023 amount to \$79,894.

The 2024 Draft Budget was presented and discussed.

There is a \$46,021 carry-over from the current fiscal year. Three corrections were made to the Salaries and Fee lines, but the total remained the same at \$45,907. The projected Total Operating Expense for 2024 is \$298,276, which includes the carry-over. Without the carry-over, there would have been a deficit of \$28,224. It should be noted that the \$46,021 carry-over is the result of the period when we were not funding a full-time Rector.

Capital Projects for 2024 were discussed. These include the skylight, structural foundation monitoring, property survey, replacement of wood in walls and above steeple window, bathroom remodeling (please see below, update on bathrooms), installation of solar panels, expansion of columbarium (long range plan), purchase of computer for Parish Administrator, purchase of altar and lectern frontals (memorial gift opportunity), and the replacement, as needed, of four furnaces. Priorities for Capital Projects will be established by the Vestry and Property Committee. In addition, the possible need for a new sign was discussed as well as a depreciation line for the four furnaces. A motion to approve the Capital Projects funding of \$16,000 was passed.

The Vestry thanked Jerrey Hoyt, Nancy Mosser and the members of the Finance Committee for their exemplary work in 2023.

Fr. Michael is following up with each visitor who completes a newcomer sheet. Worship attendance has been increasing (98 attended the two services on December 17). Christian Formation Bible study classes will resume on January 7. Lynda Waggoner noted that these classes were very well received and that the classes are an integral part of formation in our church. Members of the vestry agreed.

January Highlights By John McFerrin

The new skylight over the narthex is scheduled to be installed this month. We are still working on the rector’s office; Jeffrey Carver is working on shelves but he has a regular job so he hasn’t found the time to get them finished. Once the shelves are finished we will have to install carpet and then the project will be finished. There has been little progress on the memorial garden. A contractor has come to look but we have no new estimates. The pictures of former priests have been moved to the parish hall. We are also getting baby changing stations (the kind that fold down).

We are going to get a door for the Sunday school room. The goal is to create a private space for such occasions as the use of families at funerals or the

bridal party at weddings. A door would also help prevent the joyful noise of Sunday school from disturbing worship services.

We are committed to a goal of making our bathrooms so that they meet the needs of people who are transgender or in transition. We just don’t know exactly how to do it. Jeff Fedan had provided five options; all involve reconfiguring the current bathrooms to some extent. Because of her expertise and enthusiasm for the project, Lynda Waggoner will now take the lead in consulting with an architect and making a more specific recommendation.

We said a fond, but welcome, goodbye to the discussions about trespassing signs. Jeff Fedan has been in contact with our insurer who says that the church would only be liable to a trespasser for our negligence and that the insurer would defend any claims. Jeff thinks signs are no longer necessary. In order to prevent hunting we are going to put purple paint on trees along our property line. Hunters recognize purple paint as a message that no hunting is allowed.

The Finance Committee had completed a budget for 2024. It projects revenue of \$298,297, including a carryover of \$46,021 from 2023. The 2024 budget projects expenses of \$280,389. This leaves a surplus of about \$18,000.

We are getting some newcomers but they have not been signing the visitor register so we are going to have to find a new system for identifying newcomers. There have been some youths that have recently been attending. Father Delk is going to try having a youth group and see how it goes.

There was some discussion of closing the partition between the sanctuary and the parish hall but there was no great enthusiasm for a change. It is a benefit for those who are wrangling young children during church. It was also left open as a COVID protocol; COVID is not top of mind as it once was but it is still around.

| Stewardship Giving Report | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| December* | Giving | Expenses | Variance |
| Monthly | \$27,665 | \$25,773 | \$1,892 |
| 2023 YTD | \$199,078 | \$200,663 | \$(1,585) |

* Amounts reflect balances as of December 31, 2023 from the Treasurer’s report presented at the January 18, 2024 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

February 2024

| S | M | T | W | R | F | S |
|--|---|--|---|--|----|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 5 Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Mark 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Coffee Hour | 5 Parish Hall RSVD: Spears | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 10:00 am Acolyte Training |
| 11 Last Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Mark 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Coffee Hour (host needed) | 12 | 13 9:30 am Mountaineer Cleaning 5:30 - 7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | 14 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSB | 15 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting | 16 | 17 |
| 18 1 Lent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Mark 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Coffee Hour (host needed) | 19 7:30 pm <i>Outreach Committee Meeting</i> on Zoom | 20 | 21 | 22 7:00 pm Summit Chamber Music Series: String Quartet Concert | 23 | 24 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Empty Bowls Soup & Bread Luncheon @ Mylan Park |
| 25 2 Lent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:00 am Adult Formation Class: Mark 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II (in-person and on YouTube) Coffee Hour (host needed) | 26 6:00 pm <i>Property Committee Meeting</i> | 27 9:30 am Mountaineer Cleaning | 28 | 29 | | |



Birthdays

- 1 - Nancy Mosser
- 2 - Leah Marsh
- 5 - Ozi Mbadiwe
- 6 - Samuel McFerrin
- 9 - Jodi Richardson
- 12 - Hypatia Earle
- 12- Corey Farris
- 16 - Lisa Holland
- 19 - Mike Mosser
- 19 - Kevin Orner
- 22 - Bob Acciavatti
- 23 - Kathy Fedan
- 25 - Chuck Harman
- 26 - Nash Krehbiel
- 26 - John Taylor
- 29 - Jenny Williams

Anniversaries

[None on record for February.]

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed? Let us know!

Service Ministers' Schedule: February 2024

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>February 4 5 Epiphany</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Carol Beall 8:00 am Reader: Beth O'Neil Acolytes: Tara Steed, Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Coffee Hour: Aurie Acciavatti Counters (Monday): Carol Roberts Spears, PJ Henry Eucharistic Minister: Carol Roberts Spears</p> | <p>Intercessor: Kathy Fedan Producer: Nancy Mosser Readers: Linda Durfee, Paul Henneberger Sunday School: Ushers: Corey Farris, David Sullivan Vestry Closer: Bernie Schultz</p> |
| <p>February 11 Last Epiphany</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Bob Acciavatti 8:00 am Reader: Susan Seitz Acolytes: John Beall, Bob Acciavatti, Theo Tolka Altar Guild: Alice, Hap, Mary Lou, Bernie, Cookie Coffee Hour: TBD Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Susan Seitz Eucharistic Minister: John Beall</p> | <p>Intercessor: Jeff Fedan Producer: TBD Readers: John Pearson, Dan Bryan Sunday School: Ushers: Roy Spears, Carol Roberts Spears Vestry Closer: Beth Royall</p> |
| <p>February 14 Ash Wednesday</p> | <p>7:00 am Acolyte: Bob Acciavatti Eucharistic Minister: Grace Ayscue Readers: Grace Ayscue, Susan Seitz</p> <p>Noon Acolytes: Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti Readers: Dan Bryan, Bernie Schultz Eucharistic Minister: John Beall</p> | <p>7:00 pm Acolyte: Jeff Fedan Readers: Beth Royall, Beth O'Neil Eucharistic Minister: Jeff Fedan</p> |
| <p>February 18 1 Lent</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Tara Steed 8:00 am Reader: Ron Richardson Acolytes: Carol Beall, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Phil, Patti, Natalie, Alice, John, Lynda Coffee Hour: TBD Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Aurie Acciavatti Eucharistic Minister: Corey Farris</p> | <p>Intercessor: Aurie Acciavatti Producers: Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan Readers: Tom Waggoner, Lynda Waggoner Sunday School: Ushers: Carolyn Nelson, Byron Nelson Vestry Closer: TBD</p> |
| <p>February 25 2 Lent</p> | <p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: John Beall 8:00 am Reader: Ron Richardson Acolytes: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti, Caroline Beddow Altar Guild: Grace, Anne, Patty, Susan Coffee Hour: TBD Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Nancy Mosser Eucharistic Minister: Carol Beall</p> | <p>Intercessor: Margot Racin Producer: Corey Farris Readers: Nicki Turley, Rob Turley Sunday School: Ushers: Jim Sharley, Kathy Fedan Vestry Closer: Jeff Fedan</p> |