



March 2024

# The Canterbury Cross

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

## Rector's Corner

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I encourage you to take advantage of the worship opportunities we will be offering for Holy Week and Easter. We have a wide range of experiences, which taken all together make for a most powerful week and help us appreciate the empty tomb on Easter Day more than we might otherwise do.

We start on Palm/Passion Sunday on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The service begins with the Blessing and Procession of the Palms, which connect us to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem just days before his crucifixion. Within 20 minutes, the tone of the liturgy shifts radically, as we hear the Passion Narrative of our Lord's betrayal, arrest, trial, torture, and crucifixion. It's a bit of mental and spiritual whiplash, but that's the point. Jesus went from being welcomed to being killed in a matter of days. This experience of worship sets up everything that follows for the rest of the week.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we remember the Last Supper, recreating it by the washing of feet, which is optional. We also strip the altar as a symbol of how Jesus was removed from his disciples when he was arrested and brought to trial. This year, we will share this service with our brother and sisters from Trinity at their place at 7:00 pm.

On Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will offer multiple opportunities to relive Christ's death on the cross. The Liturgy for Good Friday will occur at noon and

7:00 pm, with Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm. These are immensely moving liturgies that go right to the core of who we are as disciples called to carry our own crosses.

Our Easter celebrations begin with The Great Vigil on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm. We start outside kindling the first fire of Easter. Then we enter our darkened chapel to hear the stories of God's saving deeds throughout history. We will reaffirm our baptismal covenant, and about midway through worship, we will proclaim Christ's resurrection with great joy. Our brothers and sisters from Trinity will be joining us here for this marvelous experience.

On Easter Day, March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will keep our regular worship schedule, but that will be the only regular thing about this day, as our hearts burst with joy at the Resurrection.

I hope you can join us for some if not all of these worship offerings, as they are sown together as a package, leading us to the cross and the empty tomb. Worship transforms us, and these unique liturgies, most of them held only once a year, help bolster our faith and complete our joy.

Peace,

The Reverend Michael L. Delk  
Rector



# Save the Date: Highland Educational Project

By Grace Ayscue

On the evening of Monday, March 18, St. Thomas à Becket will be fortunate to host the new director of the Highland Educational Project—and priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Bluefield—the Rev. Paul Barker. Following a light pizza-and-salad supper, Father Paul will talk to us about HEP, a mission of the Episcopal Diocese to McDowell County in southern West Virginia that began in the 1940s. We hope this will be a first step toward making a late summer mission trip to HEP.

Supper will begin at 5:30 pm, and Father Paul will speak at 6:00 about McDowell County, the Highland Educational Project, and how a mission to HEP would work. There will be a question-and-answer period, and the meeting will end by 7:00. Anyone curious to learn about McDowell County and the latest developments at this diocesan ministry is welcome; folks who might like to participate in a late summer mission trip this year or in future years are strongly encouraged to come.

The Highland Educational Project started over 70 years ago as a project to help veterans returning to southern West Virginia reintegrate into society by providing job training. Over time, and with changes in the coal mining industry, HEP also addressed many other needs in this increasingly impoverished area. In the early 2000s, in response to devastating floods, FEMA built a facility in Welch, WV to house and feed people who had lost homes. This facility was later given to the Diocese of West Virginia and became the home of the Highland Educational Project. HEP has undergone a period of revisioning and re-focusing, and now under Father Paul's leadership, HEP has three main areas of focus.

The first area is literacy. True to its roots in education, HEP runs a reading camp in June for second- to fourth-graders and houses a free library open weekly year-round for young children and their family members. Children and adults can read in the space and choose books to take home to keep.

The second focus of HEP is housing mission groups, usually in the summer but other times of the year as well. The work done by mission groups varies from small construction and repair projects at homes to

sorting donations at a local food bank to helping with the library or reading camp. The former FEMA building provides accommodations for small to medium-size groups. There are two large bedrooms, each sleeping more than ten people plus a smaller more private one; three bathrooms with showers; laundry facilities; a commercial-grade kitchen; and a large common space. The common space, which also houses the lending library, can be a meeting and recreational space for visiting or local groups.

The third mission of HEP is to promote the spiritual life of both visiting mission groups and local people. There's a project to build a chapel for worship services, and HEP is known to be a place where people can gather to worship and pray.

So that the Outreach Committee has an idea how much pizza to order, please RSVP to Grace Ayscue at [grace.ayscue@gmail.com](mailto:grace.ayscue@gmail.com) or 304-276-8037.

## Successful Pancake Supper

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church Men had another very successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13, 2024. Fifty-three parishioners attended which raised \$527. Thanks go to those who helped with this event, especially John Beall for his delicious pancake recipes, Roy Spears and Janet Witt for cooking pancakes, and Jim Sharley for managing the money collected. All funds raised will go toward ECM Peterkin Scholarships to defray the cost for each parish youth interested in attending a Peterkin Summer Camp.



# Migrant Worker Kits

The St. Thomas à Becket Outreach Committee is cooperating with The Daughters of the King in collecting items to put in Migrant Workers Kits. Elsie Carvell was very involved in this ministry for many years and the Daughters of the King would like to honor Elsie by dedicating the 2024 collection in her memory. The items listed below may be brought to church and placed on the table in the Parish Hall. The deadline for donating items is Sunday, April 7.

Items needed are:

- body towels and wash cloths (colors suitable for men)
- bars of soap
- men's black combs
- toothpaste (full size)
- toothbrushes

The DOK will put the kits together and the kits will be distributed to migrant workers in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

The Daughters of the King is open to all Episcopal women. Although St. Thomas à Becket does not have a chapter, Trinity has an active chapter which women from St. Thomas à Becket are welcome to join.

## February Vestry Meeting Highlights

By John McFerrin

Father Delk presented a report. Our attendance has continued to steadily creep up. He was pleasantly surprised (just short of blown away) at the attendance for Ash Wednesday services, a total of 54 for three services. He has enrolled in a new College for Clergy sponsored by the Diocese. It is for clergy who are new or new to their congregations. It is a two year process with meetings, a clergy coach, etc.

With the unanimous consent of the Vestry, we completed the documentation necessary for Scott Williams to be ordained as a priest.

We are making progress toward our goal of renovating our bathrooms so that they meet the needs of people who are transgender or in transition. Lynda Waggoner presented architectural plans for different

possibilities. All will involve reconfiguring the current bathrooms, most likely by dividing them into three or four smaller bathrooms with signs indicating that they accommodate any gender. We also noted that there is a concern among some members of the congregation that that one bathroom should be designated for women's use only. The planning continues, including consideration of the costs of different options.

The Property Committee, under the leadership of Jeff Fedan, is progressing on various projects: (1) a door for the Sunday School room; (2) an automatic door opener for the front door; and (3) refurbishing the Memorial Garden. The Sunday School room door and the Memorial Garden are almost certain to happen. The church has the money for the door and a donor has agreed to pay for the Memorial Garden work. The automatic door is less certain since the funding is still uncertain.

We are tantalizingly close to completing the Rector's office. Another two or three weeks should do it. Completing the office brings into focus the question of the furniture. Someone wants to donate new furniture. This presents us with the question of what we do with the old furniture.

We need to improve our Greeters situation. We don't have designated Greeters any more. We could try to come up with a Greeters schedule. We could also try having one of the two ushers function as a Greeter.

Bernie Schultz brought up the possibility of our sponsoring a summer reading camp. Reading Camp provides for elementary-aged children (entering grades 2-4) an opportunity to help maintain their reading and literacy skills through the summer months. The children engage in activities such as read-alouds, literacy based activities, and writing projects. This is a diocesan project so there would be some support for it. How we would do scheduling, getting volunteers, transportation, a director are all up in the air.

Stewardship Giving Report			
January*	Giving	Expenses	Variance
Monthly	\$25,567	\$21,218	<b>\$4,349</b>
2024 YTD	\$25,567	\$21,218	<b>\$4,349</b>

\* Amounts reflect balances as of January 31, 2024 from the Treasurer's report presented at the February 15, 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

# March 2024

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
<b>3   3 Lent</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> Mark 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Coffee Hour</b> (host needed)	4	5	6 5:30 pm Faith Relations HFH Meeting	7	1 8	2 10:00 am Acolyte Training 9
<b>10   4 Lent   Daylight Savings Time</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> Mark 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Coffee Hour</b> (host needed)	11 5:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	12 9:30 am Mountaineer Cleaning	13 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSB	14 7:00 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting on Zoom	15	16 Kitchen, Parish Hall RSVD: Fellowship
<b>17   5 Lent</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> Mark 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Milestone Birthdays Celebration</b>	18 9:30 am - 4:30 pm Parish Hall RSVD: Spears 5:30 pm <b>Pizza and Highland Education Project Talk</b> with Fr. Paul Barker 7:30 pm <b>Outreach Committee Meeting</b>	19	20	21 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	22	23
<b>24   Palm Sunday</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> Mark 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Coffee Hour</b>	25 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	26 9:30 am Mountaineer Cleaning	27	28 7:00 pm <b>Maundy Thursday</b> at Trinity	29 12:00 pm <b>Good Friday Liturgy</b> 6:30 pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 7:00 pm <b>Good Friday Liturgy</b>	30 Memorial Service for Tom Anderson 8:00 pm <b>Great Vigil of Easter</b>
<b>31   Easter</b> 8:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist I</b> 9:00 am <b>Adult Formation Class:</b> Mark 10:30 am <b>Holy Eucharist II</b> (in-person and on YouTube) <b>Coffee Hour</b> (host needed)						



### Birthdays

- 1 - Van Swearingen
- 3 - Daniel Crawford
- 7 - Charlie Heiskell
- 8 - Byron Nelson
- 11 - Katherine Henneberger
- 11 - Gloria Sullivan
- 11 - Lynda Waggoner
- 12 - Carolyn Nelson
- 13 - Bradley Omanson
- 16 - Theo Tolka
- 17 - Laura Conner
- 17 - Liza Heiskell
- 18 - Margot Racin
- 18 - Mark Yost
- 21 - Joy Mbadiwe
- 21 - Liam Murphy
- 25 - Patti Kisner
- 31 - Brenda Swearingen

### Anniversaries

- 8 - Jim & Dede Burnell
- 21 - Joy & Soma Mbadiwe

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed? Let us know!  
[parish@stthomasabecket.org](mailto:parish@stthomasabecket.org)

# Service Ministers' Schedule: March 2024

<p><b>March 3</b> <i>3 Lent</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Bob Acciavatti 8:00 am Reader: Beth O'Neil Acolytes: Linda Yost, Theo Tolka, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Coffee Hour: <b>TBD</b> Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, Carol Beall Eucharistic Minister: Jeff Fedan</p>	<p>Intercessor: Dede Burnell Producers: Lisa Holland and Sam Valaike Readers: John Beall, Carol Beall Sunday School: Ushers: <b>TBD</b> Vestry Closer: Bryan Tolka</p>
<p><b>March 10</b> <i>4 Lent</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Jeff Fedan 8:00 am Reader: Ron Richardson Acolytes: Carol Beall, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Alice, Hap, Mary Lou, Bernie, Cookie Coffee Hour: <b>TBD</b> Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Nancy Mosser Eucharistic Minister: Carol Roberts Spears</p>	<p>Intercessor: Kathy Fedan Producer: Kevin Steurer Readers: Dan Bryan, Beth Royall Sunday School: Ushers: <b>TBD</b> Vestry Closer: Nancy Mosser</p>
<p><b>March 17</b> <i>5 Lent</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Tara Steed 8:00 am Reader: Susan Seitz Acolytes: John Beall, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Phil, Patti, Natalie, Alice, John, Lynda Coffee Hour: Milestone Birthdays Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Susan Seitz Eucharistic Minister: Carol Beall</p>	<p>Intercessor: John Beall Producers: Jeff Fedan, Kathy Fedan Readers: Paul Henneberger, Linda Durfee Sunday School: Ushers: <b>TBD</b> Vestry Closer: Bernie Schultz</p>
<p><b>March 24</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Carol Beall 8:00 am Reader: B. O'Neil, R. Richardson, C. Beall Acolytes: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti, Caroline Beddow Altar Guild: Grace, Anne, Patty, Susan Coffee Hour: Carver Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, Grace Ayscue Eucharistic Minister: Grace Ayscue</p>	<p>Intercessor: Aurie Acciavatti Producers: Lisa Holland and Sam Valaike Readers: Jeff Fedan, Dede Burnell Sunday School: Ushers: <b>TBD</b> Vestry Closer: Beth Royall</p>
<p><b>March 31</b> <i>Easter</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Liturgical Assistant: Bob Acciavatti 8:00 am Reader: Ron Richardson Acolytes: Linda Yost, Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Coffee Hour: <b>TBD</b> Counters (Monday): Kathy Fedan, PJ Henry Eucharistic Minister: Tara Steed</p>	<p>Intercessor: Carol Beall Producer: <b>TBD</b> Readers: G. Aultman-Moore, J. Aultman-Moore Sunday School: Ushers: <b>TBD</b> Vestry Closer: Jeff Fedan</p>