

April-May 2023

The Canterbury Cross

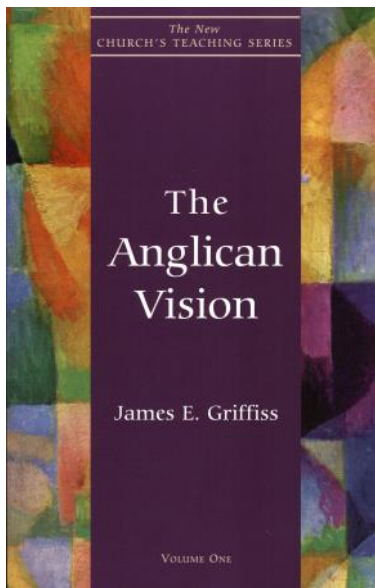
Monthly newsletter of St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church
Morgantown, WV



Adult Formation Continues in May

By Dn. Al Prichard

Our adult formation class has been enjoying a Survey of the Bible led by Rev. Dan Bryan. Our last session will be this coming Sunday, April 30. We would like to continue holding the class as an ongoing offering and have chosen the first volume of the New Church's Teaching Series, *The Anglican Vision* by James E. Griffiss as the basis for our sessions for the next couple of months.



The Anglican Vision provides us with an introduction to the origins of Anglicanism, the Catholic and Evangelical renewal movements of the nineteenth century, and a survey of Anglican mission, theology, and worship. If you are interested in learning more about Anglican and Episcopal tradition, this is a great opportunity for you.

We have 10 books on order and will make them available for \$19 each when they arrive. Or you can order the book from these sources:

The Anglican Vision from [Christian Book](#)
The Anglican Vision from [Amazon](#)
The Anglican Vision from [Barnes & Noble](#)
The Anglican Vision from [Thrift Books](#)

If the books arrive this week, they will be available on a first come, first serve basis this Sunday. During our first session, we will reflect on Chapter 1. Please join us as we explore *The Anglican Vision*.



Milestone Birthdays Honored

Sunday March 26, the parish honored three Milestone Birthdays. Each honoree has a long history at St. Thomas so Aurie Acciavatti and Margot Racin highlighted only some of their varied contributions to our Parish life.

Jim Sharley (80) and Betsy joined St. Thomas about a month after our first meeting. Jim has been Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer of ECM. And, for 15 years, our grass cutter!

Jim was instrumental in the renovation of the Sunday School and the Sanctuary. He hung drywall, insulated the roof, painted both the inside and outside of the church and traveled to Follansbee to bring back our pews and other furniture. He and Bob Acciavatti con-

structed luminaries for our Christmas services. Jim cut firewood for Peterkin funds and took care of the Woodward property until we sold it.

Betsy typed the first parish newsletters; Mark Connor edited them, and Mylan (Jim was an employee) printed them for free.

We wish Jim a happy birthday and thank him for his significant contributions to our parish life.



Margot Racin speaks at the Potluck Luncheon and Milestone Birthday Celebration on March 26, 2023.



Parishioners enjoying the potluck luncheon on March 26, 2023.

Bob Acciavatti (80) and Aurie came to St. Thomas in 1981 “looking to be part of something meaningful” and ever since have done whatever needs to be done!

Bob has served as Junior Warden and Secretary of the Vestry. He has shoveled, cleaned, swept, packed Scott’s Run backpacks, and been a gracious host to Foyer Dinners. Bob created Christmas swags from pines on our property and joined Jim in creating luminaries.

For 15 years, Bob has gently trained and supervised our Acolytes and led our Sunday processions. We wish Bob happy birthday and thank him for over 40 years of steady meaningful service.

Margot Racin (85) has been attending St. Thomas since Palm Sunday, 1981. Margot has served on the Vestry and on a Priest Search Committee. She sang in the choir for 25 years, has served on the Fellowship,

Special Events, and Outreach committees as well as with the Crafty Ladies and Altar Guild. In 2008, she brought Empty Bowls to the parish where St. Thomas has made and is still making it a significant service to the Morgantown community. Margot says, “Every activity is connected in my memory to the gracious and generous parishioners of St. Thomas. Thank you all.”



Practice Gratitude and Change the World

By Linda Durfee

The United Thank Offering (UTO), a ministry of the Episcopal Church, invites us to embrace and deepen a daily, spiritual discipline of gratitude. Notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO blue box.

UTO receives our offerings via the Diocese of West Virginia, and uses 100 percent of these funds to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Since its founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,406 grants (totaling more than \$142 million). UTO awards in 2022 funded mission projects aimed at caring for God’s creation and protecting vulnerable populations who suffer the worst impacts of pollution and climate change. In 2023, as part of a three-year cycle supporting ministries that welcome the stranger and serve those whom society has marginalized, UTO



**Notice.
Give.
Make.
Bless.**

grants will focus on projects that seek to address the incarceration crisis.

NOTICE. GIVE. MAKE. BLESS. United Thank Offering (UTO) blue boxes are available in the Narthex.

Peterkin Camps 2023

June 11 - 17: Counselor Training

June 18 - 24: Senior Camp (entering 9th grade through graduated high school seniors)

June 25 - July 1: Junior Camp (entering 4th-8th grades)

July 5 - 8: Alpha Camp (children and their grownups)

July 9 - 15: Family Camp (families of all types and ages)

July 16 - 22: Music, Art, Drama Camp (entering 4th-12th grades)

Online registration forms are [available here](#).

Photos from Easter



Bob Acciavatti serving as an acolyte during Easter Vigil.



Above: The altar decorated with Easter flowers. Below: Individual candles are lit during Easter Vigil.



The Paschal candle is lit from the new fire. Left to right: Jeff Fedan, Bob Acciavatti, The Rev. Courtney Erzkus, Dn. Al Prichard. Photos by Aurie Acciavatti and Carol Roberts Spears.



Kroger Cares Program

Remember that you can support St. Thomas à Becket by shopping at Kroger and using your Plus Card! A percentage of your purchases will be donated to the church.

Our organization number is
VV461

Sign up at
<https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards>

*If you're already signed up, you do not need to change the organization number. The new number is for new sign-ups.



Upcoming Clergy Supply Schedule

May 7 (5 Easter) - DM II - The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen preaching

May 14 (6 Easter) - HE II with Baptism - The Rev. Dr. George Moses presiding; The Rev. Al Prichard preaching

May 21 (7 Easter) - MP II - The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen officiating and preaching

May 28 (Day of Pentecost) - DM II - The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Lynn Cartwright preaching

June 4 (Trinity Sunday) - DM II - The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen preaching

June 11 (2 Pentecost) - HE II - The Rev. Dr. George Moses presiding; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen preaching

June 18 (3 Pentecost) - DM II - The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Lynn Cartwright preaching

June 25 (4 Pentecost) - DM II - The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen preaching

March Vestry Meeting Highlights

By John McFerrin

Special guest Nancy Mosser presented the report of the Finance Committee. There are currently 43 general pledges for 2023, an increase of 4 from the time of the annual meeting. There are 20 pledges for capital improvements.

If we take what was already in the capital improvements fund, add pledges to that fund for 2023, subtract payments to pay the rest of our loan, and subtract the cost of resealing the driveway, there would be about \$15,000 left. The Committee has some ideas about how we might spend that money: fixing up the rector's office, making repairs we need to stabilize the foundation, buying a new organ, and replacing our furnaces as they give up the ghost.

Representatives of the Committee had met with a representative of WesBanco which manages our investments. We are doing pretty well so far as investments are concerned.

The Finance Committee is considering buying Certificates of Deposit with some of the money that we currently have in the checking account. This would result in the church earning some interest on that money.

Junior Warden Jeff Fedan distributed a list of projects that the Property Committee is working on or had completed: new sign, outside lights, hanging bishop's and rector's pictures, cork board in Natalie's office, getting rid of old garbage can rack, and getting a new wheelbarrow.

Jeff also presented a gift that has been offered. Someone wants to arrange for the grass to be mowed weekly, a spring cleanup, mulching, and a mowing of the hillsides in the spring and fall. It is unclear whether this would be a permanent arrangement; it may be for only a year.

Parish Administrator Natalie Homer reported on a few things:

- Michael Sharley will have his book signing on Saturday, March 25, from 2:00 until 4:00.
- There has been some murmuring about whether our cleaning company is doing a good job. Jeff Fedan is going to check on this.
- The organ student's recital is April 15.
- Natalie plans to take some time off during August

or September. The Vestry strongly agreed that she should take whatever time she needs since she works hard and may need a break.

The next step in the strategic plan process—a discussion among the Vestry—is scheduled for April 13 at 7:00 pm.

Deacon Al reported that Scott Williams has begun the discernment process that may, or may not, lead to a decision to seek ordination.

There will be no freewill offering at the March 26 pot-luck. The missions of the Special Events committee and the Fellowship Committee are different. Special Events was established to sponsor events designed to raise money. Fellowship is in charge of fun; it would not be appropriate to try to raise money at a Fellowship Committee event.



April Vestry Meeting Highlights

By John McFerrin

The main item of business was to address the slipping on the side of the church toward the road. We could ignore the problem but it's not going to fix itself and will probably get worse. The Vestry had met with two contractors. Each contractor proposed a similar solution: drilling along that side of the church until we reach bedrock and then installing piers on the bedrock that would press against the current foundation. This solution would be guaranteed for the life of the building. It will cost about \$83,000. We have enough in our checking account to cover it.

In other financial matters, the Finance Committee has been considering taking some of our savings each year and putting it in funds for designated projects such as an organ or furnace replacement. Current church policy would allow us withdraw up to 5% of our savings each year. There is not yet a concrete proposal so there was no decision.

Junior Warden Jeff Fedan had distributed a list of projects that the Property Committee is working on or had completed: a new hinge in the sacristy, an improved faucet in the kitchen, and an improved sign.

Parish Administrator Natalie Homer reported that she is still working on putting together a new directory.

She and Jeff Fedan will create a plan to meet with the group that cleans the church in hopes of having them do a more thorough, consistent job.

Deacon Al reported that both Timothy Allen and Chris Scott will be ordained as deacons on May 31.

We considered the awarding of the Amy Robbins Scholarship, offered to someone from the parish who is pursuing post-secondary school education. Usually there is only one applicant so the decision is easy. This year we had three applicants so the Vestry weighed what the best way forward was. We are going to get more information and make a final decision at the May meeting.

There was extensive discussion about Sunday School. There was universal support for the idea that we should do something but no consensus on an approach. There was support for the idea that we should do more consultation with the parents before choosing a curriculum. There was a sense that we should move with alacrity on this. We have several tots and tykes who have been coming; they may have no enthusiasm for waiting. Grace Ayscue, Lisa Holland, and Bryan Tolka will put their heads together, try to draw others in, and come up with a plan on how we should proceed.

Bernie Schultz reported on the proposed strategic plan: still moving ahead.



Stewardship Giving Report			
February	Giving	Expenses	Variance
Monthly	\$16,606	\$10,731	\$5,875
2023 YTD	\$40,637	\$23,885	\$16,752*

* Amounts reflect information from the Treasurer's report given March 16, 2023 on the previous month's finances.

Stewardship Giving Report			
March	Giving	Expenses	Variance
Monthly	\$23,703	\$10,758	\$12,945
2023 YTD	\$64,340	\$34,643	\$29,697*

* Amounts reflect information from the Treasurer's report given April 20, 2023 on the previous month's finances.

Sunday Worship Schedule

The Rev. Al Prichard, Deacon

10:30 am Holy Eucharist II
(in-person and livestreamed on YouTube)



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



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75 Old Cheat Road
Morgantown, WV 26508

May 2023

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 5 Easter 9:00 am Formation Class: <i>The Anglican Vision</i> 10:30 am Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion II (in-person and on YouTube) The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen preaching Coffee Hour	8 Parish Hall RSVD: Spears	9	10 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSB	11	12	13 Parish Hall RSVD: Fellowship Committee
14 6 Easter (Mother's Day) 9:00 am Formation Class: <i>The Anglican Vision</i> 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II with Baptism (in-person and on YouTube) The Rev. Dr. George Moses presiding; The Rev. Al Prichard preaching Coffee Hour <i>Special Events Committee Meeting after church</i>	15 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting (Zoom)	16	17	18 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	19	20
21 7 Easter 9:00 am Formation Class: <i>The Anglican Vision</i> 10:30 am Morning Prayer II (in-person and on YouTube) The Rev. Dr. Timothy Allen presiding and preaching Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	26	27 Church RSVD (afternoon): Carver
28 Day of Pentecost 9:00 am Formation Class: <i>The Anglican Vision</i> 10:30 am Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion II (in-person and on YouTube) The Rev. Al Prichard presiding; The Rev. Dr. Lynn Cartwright preaching Coffee Hour Church RSVD (afternoon): Carver	29	30	31 12:30 pm Backpack Feeding Program @ SRSB			



Birthdays

8 - John Stemple
 13 - Berny Schreurs
 15 - Matt Heiskell
 20 - Gwen Anderson
 22 - Casper Earle
 26 - Kevin Meehan
 28 - Marty French
 31 - Jeff Fedan

Anniversaries

7 - Casper Earle & Bayley Brown
 9 - Eric & Renee Beard
 18 - Jeffrey & Angela Carver

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

Service Ministers' Schedule: May 2023

<p>May 7 5 Easter</p>	<p>Acolytes: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti, Theo Tolka Altar Guild: Kathy, Florita, Cheryl, Liz, Carol Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, PJ Henry Eucharistic Minister: Bob Acciavatti Intercessor: Carol Beall</p>	<p>Producer: TBD Readers: A. Nicely, John Beall Ushers: Corey Farris, David Sullivan Vestry Closer: Bernie Schultz</p>
<p>May 14 6 Easter</p>	<p>Acolytes: Scott Williams, Bob Acciavatti, Shepard Tolka Altar Guild: Alice, Hap, Mary Lou, Bernie, Cookie Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, Carol Roberts Spears Eucharistic Minister: John Beall Intercessor: TBD</p>	<p>Producers: Roy Spears, Carol Roberts Spears Readers: John Pearson, Beth Royall Ushers: Carolyn Nelson, Byron Nelson Vestry Closer: PJ Henry</p>
<p>May 21 7 Easter</p>	<p>Acolyte: Jeff Fedan Altar Guild: Natalie, Alice, John, Lynda Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, Nancy Mosser Eucharistic Ministers: N/A Intercessor: Aurie Acciavatti</p>	<p>Producer: TBD Readers: Angela Carver, Scott Williams Ushers: Angela Carver, Maddie Carver Vestry Closer: Bryan Tolka</p>
<p>May 28 Day of Pentecost</p>	<p>Acolytes: A. Nicely, Bob Acciavatti, Caroline Beddow Altar Guild: Grace, Patty, Anne, Susan Counters (Monday): Linda Yost, Carol Roberts Spears Eucharistic Ministers: Tara Steed, Bob Acciavatti Intercessor: Kathy Fedan</p>	<p>Producer: TBD Readers: Tom Waggoner, Lynda Waggoner Usher: Kathy Fedan Vestry Closer: Scott Williams</p>