

The Voice of the Holy Apostles

September-October

Clergy

The Rev. Blake R. Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Marti Holmes
Deacon

The Rev. Robin Hinkle
Transitional Deacon

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

Senior Warden:

Charles McCombs
942-0505

Junior Warden:

Toni Leo
482-5547

Vestry:

Suzanne Dunbar

Terry Lake

Jan Mize

Mary Paris

Kristy Riley

Jason Whatley

Michael Woolley

Treasurer: Dorothy White

Vestry Clerk: Margaret Morris

Music Director
Dr. Lee Couch

Parish Administrator
Teresa Byars

Julia Sanford
EYC Coordinator

A Message from the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

The fall season is in full swing and so are our ministries at Holy Apostles. I am excited about the plans, worship services, and ministry opportunities that we will have this year. I believe the church is called to minister to those around us and serve the larger community in which we reside. I'm especially proud of two new ministries at Holy Apostles.

First, we are expanding our relationship with Trace Crossings Elementary School. We have received a grant from the Diocese of Alabama to kick off a weekend backpack food program. For several years local churches have partnered with Hoover schools to make sure that children in need have food over the weekend.

Food is purchased through the Community Food Bank and volunteers from HA will deliver the food to the school. On Fridays, teachers will discreetly distribute food to at-risk students in their backpacks. For more information, contact Dee Nance at dtnance23@gmail.com.

Second, Holy Apostles has supported Habitat for Humanity for many years with Advent and Lenten 'builds' which will continue. This fall, there is an additional special event. Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Alabama are partnering with Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity in an 'All Episcopal Build.' For eight weeks, nearly a dozen Episcopal Churches are pooling resources, materials, and volunteers to make a home a reality. The build date for Holy Apostles is Saturday, September 26th from 7:30AM to 4:30PM. In addition to volunteering, there are other ways to support this ministry such as making lunches for our group or donating supplies. There is also an online volunteer calendar if you want to volunteer during the week. For more information contact Kenn Gaddis at kenneth.a.gaddis@ampf.com.

Also, mark your calendar for special worship services this fall:

Blessing of the Animals (Oct. 4th- weather permitting)

Fall Youth Sunday (Nov. 1st)

All Saints' Taizé Service (Nov. 1st/2nd)

The Bishop's Annual Visit; The Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan (Nov. 15th)

Heritage Sunday (Nov. 22nd - Bagpiper at 10:30 service)

Deacon Robin Hinkle's Ordination to the Priesthood (Dec. 9th)

All Generation Services (TBA)

Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Observed (Dec.)

Keep an eye on the church Website, Wednesday e-mails, and The Voice for more information. Join us in mission and ministry and may God continue to use us in powerful ways to bless and serve those we encounter every day.

Blake

Lifestyle changes and the Doctrine of Sanctification

Recently I read *The Mayo Clinic Diet*. This book, like many others, emphasizes that eating healthy is a “lifestyle change,” not a quick-fix “diet” which tends not to be a long-term fix in the end. This made me think that being a Christian is likewise more of a lifestyle change, as opposed to a quick fix for the trials and tribulations we may encounter here on Earth. So what does this mean for the average Christian, living in a world of donuts and cake?! Over the next several weeks in September, we will continue reading the Letter of James, both on Sundays at worship and as part of the Daily Office. James is famous for his line “faith without works is dead (James 2:21)(NRSV).” He also says, “be doers of the word, not just hearers (James 1:22).” On the other hand, in adult formation class we talked about Salvation, particularly Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, where Paul writes, “by grace you have been saved, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).”

So some of you are saying, “Alright Preacher, which is it?” My answer is “both!” Yes, Paul definitely emphasized the Doctrine of Grace, but he also had a lot to say about spiritual gifts that flow from our faith, and about living as a new creation through the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. I therefore tend to look at the situation in two ways. First, we are Justified/Saved through our faith in Jesus Christ, who lived, died and rose again in order to save us from our sins and bring us to eternal life. We can live in the knowledge that “it is finished.” On the other hand, I also adhere to the Doctrine of Sanctification, which means that as a Christian, we live into that knowledge that our salvation is secure. We come to truly realize that the Holy Spirit is working within each of us as we live here on Earth, drawing us closer to God, (and dare I say it) bringing us closer to Holiness. Our “works” then flow from our “faith”. We become doers of the word engaging in a lively faith. This sanctification part is a journey that will continue throughout our lives, sometimes two steps forward and three steps back, certainly never perfect this side of heaven.

Sanctification is not just a Sunday thing, nor a lesson learned in one day, or something we can accomplish with a project once in awhile. Rather, it is a manner of life. It’s a lifestyle change — learning new habits and putting away some old ones. Our works—prayer, worship on Sundays, caring for others, living into our gifts and virtues—hopefully will strengthen our relationship with God, which in turn will strengthen our love and care for one another. Sure, I may eat an occasional donut (WAY off my healthy lifestyle path), but hopefully, I will grow spiritually (and health-wise) as I journey home to God.

Let’s explore together what it means to live a life of faith! —*Robin*

Taking lunch into the community

Let’s start with the basics.
Just what is HALO?

HALO is an acronym—Holy Apostles Lunch Out—and an opportunity for us to use our God-given talents and abundant blessings to serve those in our community. From *The Book of Common Prayer*: “we remember the poor and neglected, the homeless and the destitute and all who have none to care for them.”

The third Sunday of each month is designated for Holy Apostles’ volunteers to meet at the Parish Hall at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn to prepare lunch for 60-80 hungry people. We gladly make sandwiches and chips; or ground beef with noodles; or spaghetti and a salad; along with cookies, a cool glass of lemonade, and a banana! By the way, we are known as “The Banana Church”!

Before opening the doors to welcome our guests, we say a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing for those we will serve. I promise— you will be blessed!

If you are interested in spending quality time with some of your fellow Apostles while feeding the hungry, let me know!

It’s great to be a Holy Apostle! — *Milton McGehee*



L to R: Milton McGehee, Gail Garratt, Vickie Shanks, Ed Gandy, Nancy Gennari, and Danny Endress cooked and served lunch in August.



L to right: Carol Barber, Principal, TCES, Fr. Blake Hutson, Deacon Rev. Robin Hinkle, and Dee Nance.



Weekenders Backpack program: The newest addition to the TCES Ministry

Holy Apostles has partnered with Trace Crossings Elementary School in the past, so this year we are expanding this ministry in our backyard.

With the encouragement from Greg Bishop of Hoover Helps, who partners schools with churches and other groups, HA will provide Weekender backpacks to students that have been identified as needing food over the weekends. The program provides a bag of nutritious, staple foods for the children.

Holy Apostles will provide manpower to pick up the already prepared bags from the food bank and drop them off at TCES once or twice a month. The teachers will discreetly add the bag of food to the child's backpack on Fridays. This will occur every week for the 40-week program.

The cost of the program is \$180.00 per student for the 40 weeks. Thanks to a \$2,000.00 grant from the Diocese, HA has the start-up funding. However, this will not sustain the program through the end of this school year. We currently have 52 students identified in need, with the potential of increasing students.

Additional ministries that HA offers to TCES are school supplies and gifts from St. Nicholas for Christmas.

The school year 2015-16 started with generous gifts from our parish. We provided full backpacks to six students and a wide variety of supplies to stock TCES. Teachers were able to share our donations with students that arrived in the first days of school without any supplies. "It enabled the student(s) to feel a part of the school," said teachers and Counselor Angie Smith.

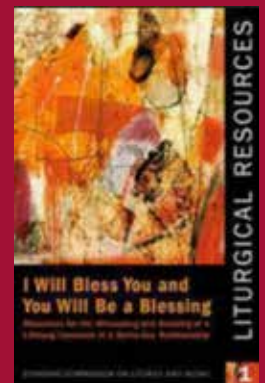
The Feast Day of St. Nicholas, the saint who inspired the legend of Santa Claus, is observed by providing shoes in a gift bag filled with small gifts ranging from sweets to gift cards for food to a small toy or T-shirt. We expect to provide sneakers or tennis shoes to 50-75 kids.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry or volunteering, please contact Dee Nance at dtnance23@gmail.com.

I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing

Recently, the Diocese of Alabama announced guidelines to allow Same-Sex Marriage in the Diocese of AL. The Diocese has invited the Vestry of each parish to read, study and pray about whether such marriages will be performed in individual parishes. As a part of the discernment process, vestries across Alabama are reading and studying a book published by the Episcopal Church: *I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing*. The Vestry of Holy Apostles invites parishioners to read this book as the Vestry enters into a discernment period. A Response/Comment form will be available in the Church Office and through the Wednesday parish email. Return your comment form by Wednesday, October 7th to Parish Administrator, Teresa Byars, as an email

attachment at tbyars@holypostleshoover.org or mail to the church address, 424 Emery Drive, Hoover, AL 35244.



Denim & Diamonds Annual Auction set for Oct. 17

Look in that closet of yours... Do you have any denim in your wardrobe? How about some bling-bling? Well put those together for the 12th annual Denim & Diamonds dinner and auction to be held Oct. 17th at the Harley-Davidson Event Room in Pelham. Not only is this one of the most fun events of the year, but also the proceeds support the mission of Holy Apostles.

“The fall auction has become a major way to sustain the ‘in-reach’ ministries of Holy Apostles as well as enabling the various outreach efforts,” said The Rev. Blake Hutson, Holy Apostles Rector.

The ministries include Apostles with Fire, Holy Apostles’ Lunch Outreach (HALO), Kairos Prison Ministry, Bridge Ministries Food Pantry, Episcopal Place, Trace Crossings Elementary School and Habitat for Humanity. “In fact,” Rev. Hutson said, “I think the auction itself is an outreach ministry of the church, taking the message of Holy Apostles to the entire community.”

Besides the usual activities of the Auction Committee, this year includes the new Ministry Challenge. “We are asking each of the ministries at Holy Apostles to put together a collection of items that reflects that ministry,” Bunn said. “For example, those active in Habitat for Humanity might put together a collection of tools, or members of HALO could put together a gift basket that contains cooking utensils or supplies. If the ministry has only a small membership, it could join another ministry to collect items. Other ministries might donate a single (very awesome) item that signifies the core purpose of the ministry.”

Bunn also stressed the need for all parish members to donate or solicit major big-ticket items such as vacation condo packages, hunting, fishing or golf outings, theater tickets and handcrafted furniture.

“There are many ways members of Holy Apostles can help make the auction a success,” said co-chair Mike Lewallen. Lewallen said parish members; their family, friends and colleagues can support the auction in one or more of the following ways:

- Donate a product or service, an item from your business or organize an event such as a themed dinner party to be auctioned off.
- Solicit donations from friends and family members, from places of business (especially from retailers you frequent).
- Be an auction sponsor. If can’t attend or are not comfortable soliciting items, make a donation toward the expenses and proceeds of the auction.



Auction tickets will be on sale each Sunday starting Sept. 6th after the 8:45 and 10:30 services, or through Ticket Chair Jenny Blair (205-403-0991).

Individual tickets are \$30 and a table of eight is \$225. The price of each

ticket includes admission to the auction, food and soft drinks. New this year will be “small plates” prepared by Chef Jim Bunn. Attendees will enjoy various food stations throughout the venue topped off with coffee and home-made specialty desserts. Last year was a sellout, so buy your tickets early! For those who would like beer or wine with dinner, the event is BYOB.

“Everything is well underway,” Bunn said. “But we need the help of the entire Holy Apostles’ family to make sure the auction is a great success.”

Donation forms and a list of suggested auction items are available in the Narthex or on the Website at holypostles.dioala.org. The deadline to submit donation forms is Sunday, October 4th. Auction items can be dropped off at the church on Sundays now through Sunday, October 11th. Just look for an Auction Committee member to take your items. For the Auction Committee to do its work and make this event a great success, these deadlines must be honored. If you have questions about dropping off donations, contact Bertha Smith (205-527-6549) or Stacia Sebura (765-749-4213).

“Everyone who attends and loves Holy Apostles can find a way to contribute to the auction effort,” Bunn said, “and I am sure they will. That’s what makes Holy Apostles so special.”

If you have questions, please contact one of the Auction Committee Co-Chairs: Mickey Bunn (205-886-2769) or Mike Lewallen (205-542-9869).

Bill Davis passes the spatula...

The Men's Group from Holy Apostles gathered at the church last July for an evening of fellowship and good food. Twenty-five men and several children enjoyed beef brisket and rice prepared by Bill Davis and a dessert of banana pudding made by Charles McCormack.

It was an important evening of transition and celebration. Bill Davis, who has been the primary leader and chef for the Men's Group for many years, announced that he is turning over the reins to younger hands—specifically to Apostles With Fire stalwarts Kenn Gaddis, Justin Aldridge, and John Ross Havard. These men hope to set up a schedule of volunteers to help with the cooking for future monthly gatherings.

A heartfelt standing ovation to Bill Davis for his long, generous, and superb service as chef and leader followed his announcement. The men of the church are all grateful to Bill, for he has made the monthly meetings a welcoming oasis for the growth of friendships and a rich sense of community.

The Men's Group continues to meet at 6:00 PM on the first Monday of every month. All are welcome, and of course, bring a guest!



HA names Music Director

Over the summer, an agreement was reached with our new Music Director, Dr. Lee Couch. Lee began his ministry at Holy Apostles on Sunday, August 30th. He is a full-time Assistant Professor of Music at Birmingham Southern College, with experience in directing music in Episcopal, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches. Additionally, he has an accomplished background as a teacher and a performer. Dr. Couch presents organ recitals, master classes, and lecture-recitals throughout the United States.

Please continue to pray for great things in the Holy Apostles music ministry.

For more about Lee, click here: <http://www.bsc.edu/academics/faculty/couch-%20Leon.cfm>.

Lighting the Way reduces debt, plans for the future



As we go into the fall season, Holy Apostles has something wonderful to celebrate! Our Lighting the Way initiative to bring down the mortgage is doing WELL! We are so pleased. At this point, we have \$294,500 committed. Close to \$80,000 has been applied to our mortgage — bringing it down to \$927,616.00. Every month, as commitments come in, they are applied to our mortgage. We have loving and generous supporters of LTW who have chosen to give their gift(s) in a one-time manner, as a three-year commitment, and as a five-year commitment. We can't thank you enough!

Holy Apostles is growing and this effort is not only a current need but helps us look to the future and as we grow in number and ministries as well as ensure our physical home keeps up with our church family. These are exciting times. Thank you for your commitment to Holy Apostles and Lighting the Way. We are lighting the way to the future!

HA's Property Guild has created signage for the Memory Garden- join them for a workday September 19th.

— *Michael Woolley*

Support our troops and Apostle Andy Davis, too!

Alabama Army National Guard Lt. Col. Andrew Davis has been in country for several weeks on a base at the center of militant activity. He has assessed the needs of his unit which is currently confined to base.

Having things to do on base is important for the soldiers and a concern of Andy's. He has written to a sports company asking for donations for his unit and the peacekeepers from other nations such as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Columbia, Britain, Canada, Italy, Uruguay, and Norway. They have a rudimentary softball field with limited gloves, bats, and balls. The soldiers are also constructing a driving range but need golf drivers, sand wedges, and inexpensive balls.

Other items that would make life far from home more comfortable would be welcomed by all members of the unit, including Chico, the dog with only four teeth who needs soft treats! Some of the soldiers do not receive packages from home. If you'd like to help with personal care items or other needs, send your package to

LTC Andrew Davis
HHC 1SB
Unit 31520
APO AE 09832



You may also contact Trina Davis. Using Amazon Prime, these items can be shipped free to the APO.

Daughters of the King, Holy Apostles - September 6, 2015



Pictured top row: DOK Chaplain Marti Holmes, LeAnn Gonzalez, Marcia Barwick, Gail Garratt, Nancy Gennari and Helene Griffith.

Bottom row: Rebecca Salas, Terri Coley, Rachael Schexnailder, Mickey Farmer, Lynn Dover Gerdes, Carol Dashiff, Jo Scherer and Pres. Pat Davis.



The Church of the Holy Apostles inducted 14 new Daughters of the King on Sunday, September 6th. New members pictured on the front row are LeAnn Gonzalez, Gail Garratt, Terri Coley, Marcia Barwick, Rachael Schexnailder, President Pat Davis, Nancy Gennari, Helene Griffith, Oldest member, Dorothy Cooke (96) Mickie Farmer, Rebecca Salas, Lynn Dover Gerdes, Carol Dashiff, and Jo Sherer. Not pictured are Lorraine Entz and Marjee Frier.

EYC gets messy!

The Episcopal Youth of the Church began the new season with a Harry Potter themed evening and Messy Games. Julia Sanford created extremely messy games for the youth of Holy Apostles, yielding an evening of laughter, bonding, faith and trust...and messiness!



Messy games ranged from a relay race involving eating glazed donuts from a yardstick and string, while having chocolate syrup poured on it; making ice sundaes while standing over a friend lying down holding the cone in their mouth; to shaving cream inspired hairdos with puffy Cheetos and colored marshmallows, describing several.

Please ask Julia Sanford or Deacon Robin Hinkle for more information on the EYC.





Calendar (Fall Schedule)

Weekly:

Sundays	Auction Committee (thru 10/17)	9:30 am
	Cursillo—Floating Reunion Group	6:00 pm
Tuesdays	Cursillo—Reunion Group IV	1:30 pm
	Cursillo I	5:30 pm
	EfM	7:30 pm
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Cursillo II	6:30 pm

Upcoming:

Monthly:

Men's Group Dinner	1 st Mondays	6:00 pm
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Mondays	6:00 pm
DOK	3 rd Thursdays	6:00 pm
Tapister's -Hoover Library	2 nd Saturdays	10:00 am
Property Guild Meeting	Last Mondays	6:00 pm
Healing Service	5 th Sundays	11:30 am

09.13.2015	16 th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: Top 10 Reasons To Be An Episcopalian
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Baptism with Eucharist (w/Choir and childcare)
09.14.2015	Vestry Meeting (6 pm)
09.19.2015	Property Guild Work Day (7:30 am – noon)
09.20.2015	17 th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: Top 10 Reasons To Be An Episcopalian
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist-- All Generations Service (w/ Choir and childcare)
10:30 am	HALO—Soup Kitchen
11:30 am	Blood Drive at Holy Apostles
5:30-7:30 pm	EYC Movie Night: <i>Finding Nemo</i>
09.25.--09.27.2015	EYC Retreat at Camp McDowell
09.26.2015	HA Build Date Habitat for Humanity All Episcopal Build
09.27.2015	18 th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: Top 10 Reasons To Be An Episcopalian
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare) Special Music: African American Spirituals
09.28.2015	Property Guild Meeting (6 pm)
10.04.2015	19 th Sunday after Pentecost Feast of St. Francis
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation classes do meet
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Blessing of the Animals— Outside Weather Permitting
5:30-7:30 pm	EYC Movie Night
10.09-10.11.2015	EYC Awakenings at Camp McDowell

8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages New Adult Class Begins: <i>Satisfied</i>
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
11:30 am	Children's Choir Practice
11:30 am	Parent's Class: <i>How Big Are God's Shoes?</i>
10.12.2015	Vestry Meeting (6 pm)
10.17.2015	Annual Parish Auction at Harley Davidson in Pelham
10.18.2015	21 st Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: <i>Satisfied</i>
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	HALO—Soup Kitchen
11:30 am	Children's Choir Practice
11:30 am	Parent's Class: <i>How Big Are God's Shoes?</i>
5:30-7:30 pm	EYC Movie Night
10.25.2015	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: <i>Satisfied</i>
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare) Children's Choir Sings
10.26.2015	Men's Group Dinner (6 pm)
11.01.2015	All Saints Day Fall Youth Sunday
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare)
9:30 am	Formation Classes: All Ages Adult Formation: <i>Satisfied</i>
10:00 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist (w/childcare) All Generations Service
5:30-7:30 pm	EYC All Saints Meeting



424 Emery Drive
Hoover, Alabama 35244
Tel. 205-988-8000

holyapostles.dioala.org



Regular Worship Schedule (Sept. - May)

Wednesday

6:30 AM Morning Prayer

Sunday

8:45 AM Holy Eucharist w/child care

9:30 AM Christian Formation w/nursery

10:00 AM Adult Choir Warm-up

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist w/choir and child care.

11:30 AM Coffee Hour (fellowship following service)

Location

424 Emery Drive

Hoover, Alabama 35244

Telephone: (205) 988-8000

E-mail:

Parish Administrator:

tbyars@holyapostleshooover.org

Rector:

bhutson@holyapostleshooover.org