

The Voice of the Holy Apostles

March-April 2015

A Message from the Rev. Blake Hutson

Clergy

The Rev. Blake R. Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Marti Holmes
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

Interim Music Director
Nadya Bogdan

Parish Administrator
Teresa Byars



Dear Apostles,

As we enter the month of April, we enter one of the most important times of the year. We are approaching Holy Week, the week in which we celebrate the essence and the heart of our faith. Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the most important days/events of the Church year. As we approach these most important days it is important that we hold these days together.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday must be held together because they are equally important. They reveal the drama of God triumphing over our sins through God's sacrificial love. Holding these days' together means not passing through Holy

Week too quickly. We sometimes have a tendency to focus on Easter and forget Good Friday. We must remember that Jesus did not get to Easter Sunday without first going through Good Friday. Before we get to Easter we must remember what happened on Good Friday and consider what this day teaches us.

On Good Friday Jesus suffers a miserable death on a Roman cross. He endured shame, betrayal, and torture (Lk. 22:47-23:56). We must remember this scene because our sins brought on this betrayal, beating and execution. Yet this day reveals the depth of God's love. Jesus' love for us enabled Him to endure it. Jesus' love allowed Him to be crucified.

Good Friday reveals something else: Jesus knows pain. Specifically, He knows our pain. We find comfort in Good Friday because we know that we worship a Lord who identifies with our pain and suffering. In our world, we know violence, feelings of marginalization and rejection. Good Friday shows us that God knows these things and has experienced them too! In his book *Resurrection*, Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury writes, "We experience ourselves as sufferers, as victims, and so experience Christ's cross as the symbol of who and what we are. Jesus as victim is the image of myself as victim. God, making himself a victim in the death of Jesus, affirms me in my suffering; he is [...] the 'fellow sufferer who understands'"(69-70).

Good Friday doesn't have the last word... Good Friday isn't the end of the story. Easter Sunday reveals that Jesus was more than an ordinary human being and certainly more than a religious martyr. Jesus' Resurrection reveals not only God's power, but also God's triumphant and victorious love. Easter Sunday reveals that Christ was, and is greater than the death that we face. The women came to the tomb and were told by the angel "You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified... he is not here. He is risen!" (Mk. 16:6, Mt. 28:5-6) The empty tomb reveals Jesus' strength and power in the face of death. The empty tomb reveals that there is no greater power in heaven or on earth than the power of God.

We must hold both days, Easter Sunday and Good Friday, together and celebrate them both. They both reveal different aspects of the triumph and power of God's love. Our sin is serious business, so is death and human suffering. Yet, these forces which seem so powerful are not absolute. Easter Sunday declares that by God's power they have been overcome. Christ was raised to new life. This is our hope! Through God's power and love, this is our expectation and God's promise to us. Good Friday and Easter Sunday show us that the ultimate, most significant power that we will face in this life and the next is the Powerful, Triumphant love of God!

Blake

Join us for worship:

Good Friday, April 3rd: 12 Noon, 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil, April 4th: 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 5th: 6:30am Sunrise, 8:45 & 10:30

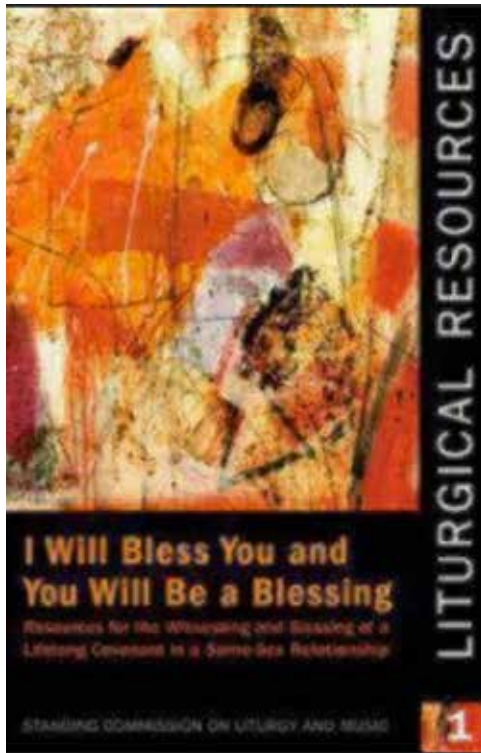
Holy Apostles' Deacon appointed Archdeacon for the Diocese



At the recent Diocesan convention, Bishop Kee Sloan appointed The Reverend Marti Holmes as Archdeacon for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

Deacon Marti's job description as The Venerable Marti Holmes is primarily to shepherd the Deacon Community. There are administrative responsibilities for some reporting and recordkeeping. The particular, specific and demanding servant role of the deacon is to interpret the needs, concerns and hopes of the world to the church, to serve in assisting the priests and bishops in worship, and to care for the poor, the sick and the friendless as a vocational call, requires that deacons maintain a healthy spiritual life. Therefore, the Archdeacon's primary responsibility is to provide opportunities for the Deacon Community to gather for spiritual growth, encouragement, continuing education, communication, mutual support, and worship. The Archdeacon is a member of the Bishop's staff, while maintaining the commitment to fully serve the parish community where assigned.

Deacon Marti stated, "I am humbled that Bishop Sloan made this appointment, and hopeful that God will provide everything necessary for me to accomplish His purpose. Holy Apostles is a fruitful parish, and this appointment provides recognition to the parish family as supporting their clergy and the mission of God." The Ven. Marti Holmes prefers that her Holy Apostles family call her Deacon Marti, or just Marti!



I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing

At the 2015 Diocesan Convention, the Diocese of Alabama announced guidelines for the Blessing of Same Sex Relationships. The Diocese has invited the Vestry of each parish to read, study and pray about whether blessings 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 and to offer feedback as the Vestry enters into a discernment period. Response/feedback forms will be provided in the Happenings email. Response forms will need to be received by mail or via e-mail to Teresa Byars (tbyars@holypostleshooover.org) by April 12th for Vestry review.

Links to purchase *I Will Bless You and You Will be a Blessing*
<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?vsl=172&pid=9780898698695>
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=9743>

The Church on the Hill Lights the Way!

Holy Apostles hosted a very special service on the evening of February 8. At dusk, we kicked off 'Lighting the Way – the 2020 Plan.' Having celebrated our 20th anniversary with a rich and proud young history, we acknowledged a great deal of growth, and that is so exciting! As most know, the church has a very steep mortgage/commercial loan, which encumbers us with high monthly payments. As a church of ministries, imagine what we could do without those high monthly payments! And, imagine our continuing growth – structurally with our building as well increasing our commitment to our church family and community. We will schedule meetings to interact with the parish and outline our new initiative. What an exciting time to be a Holy Apostle!

With an exciting endeavor like this, we wanted an equally exciting rallying symbol. We have a beautiful church home and are proud of it. But, it has been very dark after sunset on our hill. The few lights just weren't enough. As of the Lighting the Way special service, Holy Apostles is now beautifully lit after dark. Please drive by and see just how lovely it is. The Lighting the Way committee greatly thanks the Property Guild for their hard work. It is a work of art! We are so excited for our Hoover neighbors to see our wonderful church in a whole new light. And ... this light will lead us to an exciting future as wonderful as our past!



Bishop Marray Gives Thanks for UTO Grant



Recently, the Rt. Reverend Santosh Marray, Assistant Bishop of Alabama, visited with the ladies of Holy Apostles and shared his experience of receiving a grant from the United Thank Offering (UTO).

“When I was selected to be Bishop...a miracle of God, He called me from Jacksonville, Florida to be bishop of the Seychelles off the eastern coast of Africa, a two-hour flight from Kenya.” Bishop Marray learned from another bishop in nearby Madagascar about a United Thank Offering grant he had received, and the bishop informed him that this was “The Seychelles’ year to apply!” Bishop Marray signed off on his application just two days before the deadline. His application proposed to “transform a dilapidated building into a training center.” On a visit to the States to see family, he had an opportunity to see the Coordinator of UTO and gave an overview of his project.



Just two weeks later, he was awarded the funds for his project. “I screamed hallelujah so loud! I had prayed so much for the grant—did what I was supposed to do, but without the grant, I couldn’t have done it!”

“Your pennies in that blue box—it’s amazing how many people are affected by your coins; just collect it...if you have the discipline, it’s amazing how many lives are transformed and souls

saved because of the little blue box—UTO has a profound impact all over the world.” Bishop Marray was able to complete a laundry list of projects planned for five years in four years in the Seychelles, then returned to the States and eventually became Assistant Bishop to Bishop Kee Sloan.

Bishop Marray spoke about the Episcopal Church’s emphasis on mission (outreach) in the world. He said “mission is a broad term; outreach is just one complement of the mission of God.” He sees the United Thank Offering as an “unselfish demonstration of our love for God” that allows the Church to respond to the needs of others nationally, regionally, and globally. “Christians, rich or poor, can give unselfishly to causes that are beyond us by inserting coins in a little blue box every day—imagine a million of us doing this every day, thanking God for the little things that make us feel happy and grateful!”

Look for the UTO boxes in the Narthex starting on Sunday, April 12th; the ingathering will be Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:30 service.

EYC Fundraiser

The EYC, with the generous help of Jim Bunn and Parish Life Committee members, hosted the Taste of Heaven dinner again this year on February 7th at Holy Apostles. The meal and fellowship were fantastic, as usual! Spencer Lotz said, “We look forward to hosting Taste of Heaven every year, and are so thankful for everyone who came out to support us, and especially for our chef (Jim Bunn) who makes it possible.” The EYC members are planning to use the funds raised to take a trip to Six Flags later this year.



Scholarships Available to Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are eligible for scholarships through the ECW of the Diocese of Alabama. Go to the alabamaecw.org website and click on "ministries".

Application Information

All college scholarships are based on need (40%), church involvement and activities (40%), and merit (20%). Applicants should be able to document information regarding their family's financial status (Form 1040). An application for a college scholarship may be made every year a student is in college; however, an award to any one person is limited to a maximum of two years. Granted funds are mailed directly to the registrar's office of the college of the recipient's choice. Seminarians are helped with CPC funds and are ineligible for ECW college scholarships.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Each applicant must submit a completed Application Packet by April 30, 2013 and be:

A communicant in good standing with the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Alabama

Accepted or enrolled in an academic institution of college rank

Pursuing professional certification or a degree from an accredited institution

Able to show financial need

A recipient of no more than one previous ECW Scholarship

Application Packets must be complete, and must arrive by April 30th;

Application Packet must include:

- (1) Completed Application Form;
- (2) Recent transcript;
- (3) A one or two-page essay summarizing your need, your school and community accomplishments, and your church activities and;
- (4) The Church Involvement Form, completed by your priest, and
- (5) Your most recent Federal Tax Return;
- (6) Passport size photograph. Instructions for completing the package are included on the Application Form.

FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
[CLICK HERE](#)

FOR THE CHURCH INVOLVEMENT FORM
[CLICK HERE](#)

Applications must be postmarked or received electronically by April 30 of the year of application. Completed applications should be sent to the ECW Scholarship Chair, Theresa Hester, 110 West Hawthorne Rd., Birmingham AL, 35209, office@allsaintsbirmingham.org. For more information call 205-879-8651. The awards will be announced in June. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. If applying for a second scholarship, an evaluation by college chaplain is acceptable.

Changes to holypostleshoover.org!

2015 is looking to be an exciting year for the Communications Ministry and holypostleshoover.org. Already this year, we've worked to move the church over to using new e-mail addresses, which better reflect who we are as an organization. Our former gmail addresses will continue for a time to forward any communications sent. However, please update your contacts to reflect these new addresses:

Rector - The Rev. Blake Hutson: bhutson@holypostleshoover.org

Deacon - The Rev. Marti Holmes: mholmes@holypostleshoover.org

EYC Coordinator - Julia Sanford: jsanford@holypostleshoover.org

Parish Administrator - Teresa Byars: tbyars@holypostleshoover.org

Interim Music Director - Nadya Bogdan: nbogdan@holypostleshoover.org

Website/social media updates: webmaster@holypostleshoover.org

Look for future updates in The Voice for more changes coming later this year!



Nouwen's meditations on Rembrandt's 'Prodigal Son'

"In the joy of the return, we forget about the leaving..."



The traditional parable for the third Sunday in Lent is *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. This Lenten season at Holy Apostles, Deacon Marti Holmes is leading a class on *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Henri Nouwen was a renowned Dutch priest, author, and professor who wrote 40 books on the spiritual life. His literary legacy lives on in over two million books sold worldwide, in 22 languages. Nouwen was so inspired by Rembrandt Van Rijn's painting that he explored the Gospel's parable—the themes of homecoming, sibling relationship, and the father's compassion in one of his last works before his death in 1996.

While it is good to understand Nouwen's point of view, it's also good to understand Rembrandt's life—for he lived in an age of religious belief. His mother was Catholic, his father Dutch Reformed Church. However, it is unknown if Rembrandt belonged to any formal religious community. He lived entirely in the 17th century, a time often described as the Dutch Golden Age. He served an important apprenticeship with Peter Lastman in Amsterdam; worked at The Hague, and as a portraitist. Another important teacher taught him about the power of light on the

pigments he used. It was this skill that entranced Henri Nouwen when he viewed *The Return of the Prodigal Son* at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg in 1986. Nouwen spent hours studying the 8' high by 6' wide painting over a two day period—with the changing light revealing the characters in the work—a father, younger son, and the elder son, with several figures in the background. Rembrandt was recognized by his contemporaries as a master painter of biblical stories. Rembrandt himself wrote of what he sought to achieve in his art: "melding the earthly and spiritual as has no other painter in Western art." (rembrandtonline.org)

Men's Group honors Andy Davis and Scarlett Riley

The Men's Group of Holy Apostles recently met for a special dinner of grilled steak and baked potatoes to honor parishioner, Andy Davis, who is deploying overseas soon. Lt. Colonel Davis is training at Ft. Hood in June before heading to Egypt as Commander of the 1st Support Battalion of Task Force Sinai—handling logistics for the Multinational Force and Observers.

All of us are thankful to Andy for his service and wish God's blessings on him and his family as well as a safe return! Godspeed, Andy!

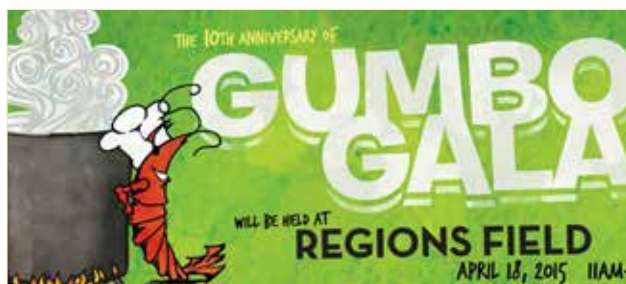
At the March meeting, 25 men and four children were on hand to enjoy an evening of fellowship and a delicious dinner prepared by Bill Davis. A special moment was the men's singing Happy Birthday to a beaming Scarlett Riley who was celebrating her 7th birthday. And, attending his first Men's Group that evening was a very special guest, twelve-week-old Wesley Hutson!

The Men's Group of Holy Apostles meets on the first Monday of every month at 6:00 PM. All men of the parish are welcomed and urged to bring a guest. Children are welcome. Upcoming meetings are April 6 and May 4.



Turning Up the Heat with Apostles with Fire!

It's another great year for Holy Apostles signature cooking team: Apostles with Fire (AWF). Over the years, this talented group of people has fed the hearts, souls and bellies of many around the Hoover and Birmingham area. This year will be no different as our team of chefs will be boiling, browning and brewing up Crawfish, Pastalaya and Gumbo for our three key events. This year you will have plenty of opportunity to see the team in action at the Gumbo Gala, Crawfish Boil and Celebrate Hoover! Day.



First up is the **Annual Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala** on April 18th from 11:00 – 2:00. The AWF team of chefs will be competing in our 3rd annual Gumbo Gala event. So far the team has managed to bring home awards for the Best Chicken and Sausage Gumbo (2013), The Spirit Award (2014), and Best Specialty Gumbo (on behalf of Three Hots & a Cot in 2014.) We are excited to be part of this incredible event, which has been recognized as one of the best outdoor festivals in Birmingham! This year we are moving to the Regions Baseball Park in downtown Birmingham. Mark your calendars and come out to support us. All proceeds go to benefit Episcopal Place. We also need more competitors and sponsors. See Kenn Gaddis or go to: <http://www.episcopalplace.org/gumbo-gala/> . *Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!!*

One week later, on April 25, 2015, Holy Apostles will host its **18th Annual Crawfish Boil!** For the past 17 years the Crawfish Boil has served as a great resource of community outreach, each bigger and better than the last. It has become one of our most cherished parish events. For all this past success we owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Davis for organizing and running the event since its inception. This will be Bill's first year in a support role so I urge all of you to help us make sure he doesn't regret his decision. With the help of our Boil Master Paul Gilbert and the Apostles with Fire cooking team, we will have a full spread of crawfish, shrimp, and award-winning Gumbo in addition to hot dogs and frozen treats for the kids of all ages. There will

also be a bounce house and music all day--so invite your friends and neighbors and their families for a great family event! They just might decide they want to come back on Sunday. See John Ross Havard (jrharvard@gmail.com) for more information.

But, we are not done yet!

On May 2nd , the AWF team gets back in action at **Celebrate Hoover! Day** from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This annual event at Veterans Park is a great way to spend a late spring afternoon and celebrate the great city we enjoy. Come out and enjoy rides, crafts, a petting zoo and a giant Apple Pie, just to name a few of the features! Of course, nothing goes better with an Apple Pie than something from our big cast iron pot! There is truly more fun than you can shake a spoon at. See Justin Aldridge (jaldridge@kbb.com) for more information.

Where there's smoke, there are Apostles with Fire. We take outreach, throw a little spice on it and serve it over rice! It's a fun and rewarding way to feed the hungry and hungry of heart.





Calendar

Weekly:

Sundays	Cursillo - Floating Reunion Group	6:00 pm
Tuesdays	Cursillo Reunion Group IV	1:30 pm
	Cursillo I	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
	EFM (Education for Ministry)	6:00 pm
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	6:30 am - 7:30 am
	Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Monthly:

03.07.15	Tapisters Meeting	10:00 am
03.09.15	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
03.12.15	Girls' Night Out	6:30pm - 7:30 pm
03.19.15	DOK Meeting	6:00 pm

04.01.15	ECW Meeting	6:30 pm
04.04.15	Tapisters Meeting	10:00 am
04.06.15	Men's Dinner	6:00 pm
04.09.15	Girls' Night Out	6:30 pm
04.13.15	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
04.16.15	DOK Meeting	6:00 pm

To submit an article please email

Contact *The Voice* editor, Deborah Burtnett
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Designer Emma Wang emma.wang@att.net

UPCOMING

03.18.15	6:00 pm	Wed. Night Lenten Study (led by Deacon Marti Holmes)	04.04.15	7:30 pm	HOLY SATURDAY Easter Vigil w/ Child Care
03.19.15	4:00 pm	VISITATION - Rod Paris, Celebration of Life	04.05.15	6:30 am	EASTER DAY (No Youth or Adult Education classes) Easter Day Sunrise Eucharist (outside weather permitting)
	- 6:00 pm			8:45 am	Easter Day Early Service w/ Holy Eucharist
	6:00 pm;	SERVICE - Rod Paris, Celebration of Life		10:30 am	Easter Day Festival Eucharist w/ Choir & Child Care, Children's Choir Sings
03.20.15	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross		12:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt
03.21.15	7:30 am	Property Team Work Day -	04.06.15		Easter Monday Church & Office Closed
	- 12:00 pm		04.07.15		Easter Tuesday Church & Office Closed
03.22.15	5:30 pm	EYC Meeting at HA	04.12.15		No Children's Choir Rehearsal
	- 7:30 pm		04.14.15	10:00 am	Yoga; Beginner Level Mat Yoga, led by Emma Wang -
03.25.15	6:00 pm	Wed. Night Lenten Study (led by Deacon Marti Holmes)	04.18.15	11:00 am	GUMBO GALA @ Sloss Furnace
03.27.15		Stations of the Cross - 6:30 pm		- 2:00 pm	
03.28.15	7:30 am	Habitat for Humanity, 2nd Lenten Build	04.19.15	10:30 am	No Children's Choir Rehearsal HALO - Soup Kitchen
	- 4:00 pm -			- 2:00 pm	
03.29.15		PALM SUNDAY	04.25.15		Holy Apostles' Crawfish & Shrimp Boil
	8:45 am	Early Service - Blessing of the Palms, HE I	04.28.15	10:00 am	Yoga; Beginner Level Mat Yoga, led by Emma Wang -
	9:30 am	Christian Education Classes	05.02.15	10:00 am	Celebrate Hoover Day - Veteran's Park, Hoover
	10:30 am	Blessing of the Palms; Holy Eucharist II w/Child Care; Reading of the Passion by EYC (assemble in the parking lot)		-2:00 pm	Apostles with Fire will cook
	11:30 am	Healing Prayers	05.03.15	2:00 pm	Piano Recital, Gail Garratt
	11:45 am	EYC Palm Sunday Salad Bar		- 5:00 pm	
03.31.15	10:00 am	YOGA - Beginner Level Mat Yoga; led by Emma Wang -	05.13.15		Regions Tradition Tournament – Holy Apostles Volunteers
04.02.15	6:30 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Maundy Thursday Compline; Stripping of the Altar	05.16.15	8:00 am	Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society -
04.03.15	12:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY Good Friday Service (Meditation, Scripture & Prayer)		- 5:30pm	
	6:30 pm	Good Friday Service (Liturgy, Communion from Reserved Sacrament)			