

## *The Voice of the Holy Apostles*

**Sept.-Oct. 2014**

**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:**

Terry Lake  
440-2084

**Vestry:**

Toni Leo

David McElroy

Jan Mize

Mary Paris

David Shipley

Bertha Smith

Michael Woolley

Treasurer: Dorothy White

Vestry Clerk: Margaret Morris

Choirmaster  
Shaun Pezant

Parish Administrator  
Teresa Byars

### *A Message from the Rev. Blake Hutson*



Dear Apostles,

As we begin this year, it's important to remember that everything that we 'do', everything we offer, every ministry and service opportunity comes from our sense of mission. In this parish, we live into and carry out the very mission of God.

Theologians call it the *Misseo Dei*. You can trace God's Mission back to the book of Genesis and follow it through the New Testament. In a nutshell: The Father sent the Son, the Father & Son sent the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit sends the church. In the church we live into and we carry out the very mission of God. As Bishop Sloan once remarked: "God has a mission and God's mission has a Church!"

How do we do this? We offer opportunities for: Worship, Service, Offer Pastoral Care, fellowship ministries, welcome new people, we form disciples—everything that we do, every group, every ministry comes from our sense of Mission.

Our Mission is bigger than this parish—we fit into the larger mission of the Church (universal), the Episcopal Church and Diocese of AL. Here in Hoover, we fit into and have a small role in the very mission of God! When we leave this place we become the hands and feet of Christ in our workplace, neighborhood and family.

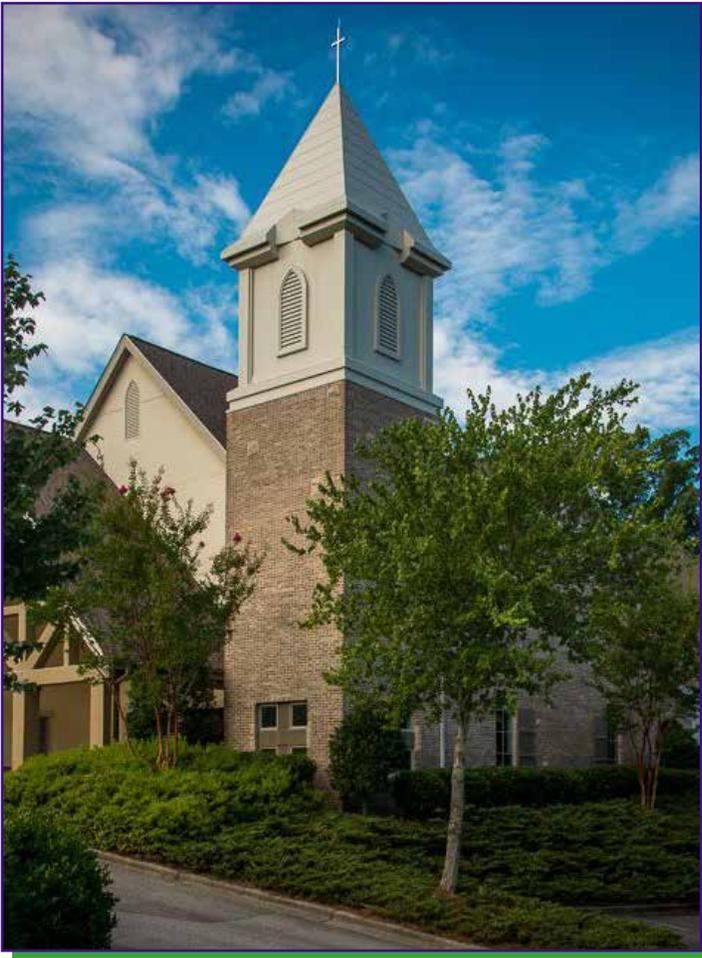
What we Don't Do... The church is not a country club or entertainment center, not a social group but rather a missional group – our focus is worshipping God, serving God and community, forming disciples and representing God through mission in our community.

I Cor. 12:27 the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." If we are part of the body of Christ, then like Jesus, we are sent into the world. We are reminded of this at the conclusion of every service. The Deacon dismisses us with the words: "Let us go forth in the name of Christ" or "Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord." (BCP, 366).

We offer a variety of ministry opportunities. When you get involved at Holy Apostles we find that our faith deepens as we encounter the transforming grace of God. We plant seeds and water them. God makes them grow. Join us in mission and ministry. It is a privilege to grow, serve and participate in God's mission with you.

Warm regards,

*Blake*



## Planned Giving Committee seeds endowment fund

*Did you know* The Planned Giving Committee, with approval of your Vestry, has founded an endowment program for Holy Apostles. Seeded with \$1000, this fund will grow with our Church for years to come. Imagine, with your commitment to this fund, you can not only support and impact the ministries of Holy Apostles today – but through perpetuity. Managed by the Diocese of AL in the Diocesan Pooled Investment Fund, it will grow under professional financial management. These funds contributed to the endowment fund are invested and the income earned by these investments will be used to sustain and strengthen various ministries of our church into the future. You can give to the Endowment by remembering Holy Apostles in your will or estate plan or making a one-time gift. And you, as a member, benefit by providing a vehicle for leaving a legacy to your church. The endowment fund is to be a resource that “stores up in the time of plenty” (Prov. 6:8) to enhance and extend the mission and ministry of Holy Apostles for years to come. For more information, please contact Father Blake. --Michael Woolley

## Outreach earns national attention

Recently, a writer/editor from the communications department of The Episcopal Church contacted HA about using one of the photos in our Flickr account for national exposure. It was a Habitat for Humanity photo from 2013 featuring Jeff Howell. The photo was used this past week in the Labor Day Weekend insert. The free, downloadable bulletin insert features information about the history, music liturgy, mission, and ministry of The Episcopal Church (<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/bulletin-inserts>).



## Denim & Diamonds Annual Auction set for Oct. 11

The 11th Annual Fall Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Auction is set for Oct. 11 in the Harley-Davidson Event Room in Pelham. Proceeds from the event go to fund several outreach missions sponsored by Holy Apostles.

“The fall auction has grown each year and has become a major component for funding several of our ministries,” said The Rev. Blake Hutson, Holy Apostles Rector.

Fr. Blake said the ministries include Bridge Ministries Food Pantry, which provides food and other necessities to those in need; Three Hots and a Cot, which provides lodging, meals, transportation, clothing and job search assistance to veterans in need; and Pathways, a United Way Agency that helps homeless women and children.



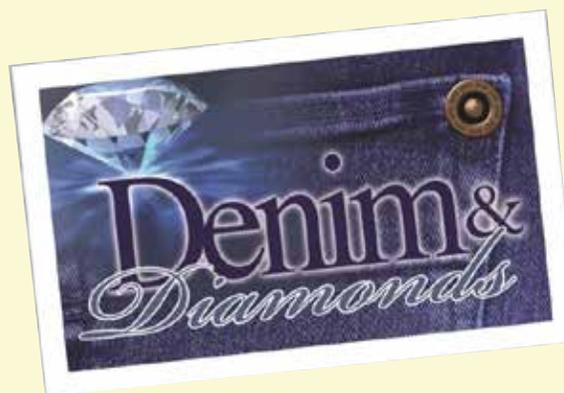
This year’s auction includes many old traditions (including the Paul Gilbert cake...with a twist!!) as well as a number of changes in the process designed to make things flow more smoothly.

A Joe Namath No. 12 New York Jets jersey and a trip to Disney World are among the items already in hand for the auction. Tickets will be on sale each Sunday starting Sept. 7 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, dinner and soft drinks. Last year was a sell-out, so get your tickets early!

For those who would like beer or wine with dinner, the event is BYOB. Event planners promise a fantastic dinner, which will be topped off with coffee and homemade specialty desserts.

“Everything is well underway,” said Mickey Bunn, auction co-chair. “But we need the help of the entire Holy Apostles family



to make sure the auction is a great success.”

Last year’s event raised more than \$34,000 and the auction committee hopes to surpass that total this year.

“There are a lot of ways members of Holy Apostles can help make the auction a success,” said co-chair Mike Lewallen.

Lewallen said people 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.

Donation forms, sponsorship forms and a list of suggested auction items are available in the narthex or on the website at [holypostles.dioala.org](http://holypostles.dioala.org). The deadline to submit donation forms is Sunday, Sept 21. Auction items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday’s now through Sunday, Sept 28. 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 is what makes Holy Apostles so special. We want to see a full house Oct. 11 with everyone wearing their denim and those pretty diamonds.”

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

## Initial CPC Ingathering blesses seminarians

As the Episcopal Church Women embark upon their second full year, they look back at the ‘firsts’ for Holy Apostles in 2014. The new ECW initiated the United Thank Offering during Lent with ingathering just after Easter, and the second traditional ingathering was for seminarians—the Church Periodical Funds.

At its inception in 1888, the Church Periodical Fund sent Bibles and other Christian reading materials “out West” from the Church of the Holy Communion in New York. It gradually increased and spread throughout the world, sharing the good news of God’s love. In recent years, it has become a “scholarship fund” of sorts for our seminarians. On October 1, 2012, a check for \$527.62 was mailed to 14 seminarians. For the first year at Holy Apostles, the ingathering netted \$550.00 for the diocese.

Last year at Fall Conference, the approximate amount given to each seminarian was just over \$1,000.00! What a wonderful blessing for our seminarians! Our ECW Diocesan Board received many comments in thanksgiving such as, “Thank you for helping me to achieve my dream of serving God’s people as a priest” and “I am writing you this note in utter amazement of your thoughtfulness and God’s grace. We are so grateful for this generous gift from the ECW... Our financial situation is much tighter now ... this gift is timely and immeasurable. Please know that because of affirmations like this, we are encouraged and ever greatly resolved to continue our pursuit of God’s wonderful, scary calling for our lives.”

Amazing, isn’t it? --Jo Vincent



*The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) delivered two carloads of school supplies to Trace Crossings Elementary School during the first week of classes. Grateful thanks to HA for the continued partnership from Angie Smith, Counselor; Jo Vincent, President ECW; Principal Carol Barber; and Assistant Principal Amanda Stone.*



## Newcomers welcomed at brunch

Newcomers welcomed at the beginning of Summer by Fr. Blake Hutson included (left to right): Ruth and Bill Jones and their daughter Tracy Jones; Dale Tomlinson; Imelda and Tom Vetter; Bill Gerdes and Lynn Dover; Susette Clark-Walker; and Milton McGehee. It’s great to be a Holy Apostle! The next Newcomers’ Brunch is September 14th after the 10:30 AM service.

## EFM diploma awarded to Tracy Jones

In June, Tracy Jones received a diploma from the School of Theology of the University of the South (Sewanee) for completion of the Education for Ministry Program. We are very proud of Tracy's accomplishment and we are thrilled she will be taking the course for the second time. In the fall of 2013, Sewanee redesigned the materials. Tracy now desires to explore this new material because the EFM experience means so much to her.

EFM is a four-year distance learning theological education program of the School of Theology at Sewanee. Participants commit one year at a time to meet weekly during the school year in seminars led by trained mentors. During the four years, participants study the Bible, church history, and theology while learning to engage in theological reflection.

EFM provides a comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. EFM helps us understand our lives and shape our actions as we deepen our Christian faith. Through study, prayer and theological reflection, EFM enables us to discover and exercise our gifts for ministry where we live and work.

Congratulations, Tracy! --Linda McCormack



*Linda McCormack, Tracy Jones, Rosemary Bogan, the Rev. Blake Hutson*



## DOK Induction

On Sunday, August 3rd at the 10:30 Service, Father Blake and Pat Davis inducted the newest members of the Daughters of the King Prayer Group. New members are Lauren Havard, Lynn Mills, Tracy Jones and Imelda Vetter. If you would like more information about becoming a Daughter, please contact Pat at [pdavis2622@charter.net](mailto:pdavis2622@charter.net)



*The Rev. Dr. Rusty Goldsmith blessed Page & Jerry Robertson at their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration on July 6th.*



*The Robertson's Extended Family visited Holy Apostles July 6.*

## HA podcasts available through iTunes

*What is podcasting?*

Podcasting makes an audio file available online for downloading via an automatic 'feed.' You can then hear the podcast whenever you want from your computer or a portable media player.

*What do I need to hear podcasts?*

The first thing you need is podcast subscription software. Most people have a copy of Apple iTunes on their computer or a mobile device.

*What content does Holy Apostles offer as podcasts?*

Currently, Holy Apostles offers two podcasts. The sermons podcast is available for subscription in the Apple iTunes Store or at <http://bit.ly/1os7eet>. We also offer occasional recordings from our Adult Education classes at <http://bit.ly/1mG2fkQ>.

*What content can Holy Apostles offer as podcasts?*

We'd love to hear your ideas. We're looking for new and creative ways to share what's happening at Holy Apostles with each other and with our visitors. The communications team can help set up a new podcast, publish it within the Apple iTunes Store, and add links to the Holy Apostles website. All we need is your recording to share! --Lane Oden

## 'Reach' and 'Engagement' on Social Media rising

Every few months, outgoing Facebook administrator Rod Scott has reported on the statistics of page activity to the Communications Team. The biggest news was that starting in April of this year, consistent traffic that began on the church web page followed a link to Facebook.

Defining 'reach' as how many saw the page and 'engagement' with the site as representing Likes + Comments + Shares, Rod reported over 1,000 viewers reached on May 29 and a 300+ reach day on June 17. Traffic is busiest on the site between dawn and 9AM and between 3PM and 9PM daily. It is important to note these times when posting items for parish members' benefit. Information posted during the day is generally not seen immediately, and that posted after 9PM is not likely to be seen before the next day.

The big draws cited included the August 3rd photo of the Blessing of the Backpacks and school supplies with 363 engaged; the announcement of the new EYC Coordinator using two photos reached 186 people; and the 'Great and Joyous Events' album engaged 436!! The biggest draws were photos, especially during Easter. The INFO tab was viewed mostly during the Easter Season.

The Communications Team welcomes Bo Dikeman as he and Lane Oden work as co-administrators for Facebook, with Debbie Burtnett and Bruce Klais assisting.

## Evangelism: the goal of Social Media Sunday

Sunday, June 29, marked a number of occasions in the Episcopal Church, including the first official Social Media Sunday. The date is significant in that it commemorates the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul who were "great apostles and evangelists ... so we thought it was an appropriate time to evangelize in this way," said the Episcopal News Service.

People were invited to share their worship experience via social media including Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. Photographs reflected selfies, prayers, ideas, hymn-singing, workshops, and other photos using the #Episcopal, #ChSocM (Church Social Media), and #SMSunday. All denominations were invited.

The idea came from two Episcopalians—one in Connecticut, Carolyn Clement, and one in Missouri, Laura Catalano—who have never met but wanted to "encourage people of faith to share the gospel and be the church online." Both are volunteer administrators in their respective churches who see social media as "very effective tools that we can use to do what we are already doing: inviting others, showing care and concern for people, telling friends about our church and showing them Jesus ... social media, when done right, is about the relationship, not the technology."

And, social media is not going away according to Barry Merer, Manager for the Episcopal Church of the website and social media, who stated: "It's about people engaging with their church ... finding new ways to engage with their faith. It's a great idea because church happens at the grass roots, so ... let it happen."



*A 'how-to-use social media' seminar.*

## Flower Guild begins its second year

On most Sundays, we admire and enjoy beautiful flowers on the altar or honor those we love with their beauty. But, they don't grow there!

The Flower Guild is responsible for the arrangements that beautify our worship experience. Last year was the first for the guild, blessed with nine members. The guild tries to match the flowers to special events and enjoy suggestions from parishioners that wish to donate.

Several members also serve on the Altar Guild and the group would welcome experienced arrangers as well as "newbies!" –Tracy Wayland



*Judy Brown created this arrangement for the reception at the Robertson's 50th Anniversary celebration.*



## Hospitality Ministry serves Chamber of Commerce guests

On July 10, Holy Apostles hosted the Hoover Chamber of Commerce monthly "Coffee & Contacts." Our Hospitality Team gathered door prizes and served a simple breakfast for approximately 50 guests.

--Cindy Puchta

## Hospitality Team offers service, comfort

During the past year, our Hospitality Team (formerly called Reception Committee) extended a ministry of hospitality and care to guests attending special events ranging from a diocesan-wide clergy meeting to a local preschool graduation. Our team of regular volunteers also offered love and support during a recent funeral.

For funeral receptions, the team will purchase and serve a standardized menu: finger sandwiches, fruit, cheese, dessert, and beverages (families cover costs; parishioners wishing to donate food can coordinate with the family and take food directly to the home.) At wedding receptions, hospitality will be offered, but families will coordinate food and beverages with a caterer.

The Hospitality Team's goal is to provide warm welcome, simple comfort, and consistent service to all in the Holy Apostles community. Anyone wishing to join this team should contact Linda Beck (244-1340) or Cindy Puchta (593-4422 or [cindypuchta@gmail.com](mailto:cindypuchta@gmail.com).)



## Food ministry nourishes bodies and souls



*Lisa Isay and Jo McCracken*

Because of holiday food drives and the “Christmas Shoe Box” gift program that so many generously support, it may seem to some of our parishioners that Bridge Ministries receives help from Holy Apostles only during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. In fact, Holy Apostles partners with Bridge Ministries throughout the year.

Whether it’s Jan Mize who included collecting peanut butter and

jelly donations as part of Vacation Bible School; Margaret Wade and Dot Cooke giving hundreds of Beanie Babies that help children smile; or Kay Wallace knitting ski caps for many enduring the cold winter and spring, parishioners seek ways to help Bridge Ministries prevent homelessness and deprivation in the Birmingham/Hoover area. Over the years, furniture, clothing, and of course, monetary donations have been given.

Since the last Thanksgiving season, this partnership has helped Bridge Ministries to provide food and personal care items to over 1,200 clients; rent and utility related assistance to almost 100 families; and bus passes for hospital care.

Bridge Ministries is a smaller organization where people come first. Lisa Isay, Director of Bridge Ministries, and Amy Wortham, recently hired as a caseworker, take the extra time to discover the root cause of the crisis situation. Both Lisa and Amy strive to provide this personal attention as a means

to prevent homelessness among the most vulnerable. One client stated that he was in a very depressed state. Even before Lisa helped him with his utilities, Lisa addressed his depression, and told him not to hesitate to call her if help was needed.

In a recent survey, one client remarked, “I’m thankful that there are programs like Bridge Ministries; willing to help, and will help.” Another said that Bridge Ministries is a much-needed service; everything that was provided is appreciated. I thank God for Bridge Ministries.”



*Sam Faires*

Although monetary donations are appreciated, nonperishable food donations are also needed. Before food is given to clients, it is assigned a monetary value. This valuation helps generate even more grant dollars for rent and utility assistance. Nonperishable food items needed are those high in protein: chicken, stews, fish, hams, soups, beans, etc. Canned vegetables and fruits increase nutritional value as well. Watch for a fundraiser, which helps generate matching grant money, scheduled for the fall.

For more information, please contact Lisa Isay, [lisy1955@aol.com](mailto:lisy1955@aol.com) or Lois Faires, [faresl@bellsouth.net](mailto:faresl@bellsouth.net).



*Beanie Babies collected by Dot Cooke and Margaret Wade for children and knitted ski caps made by Kay Wallace*





Mary Frances & Allen Van Ness on his 90th birthday



Julia Sanford is HA's new EYC Coordinator.



Kristy Riley and Hollie Odgers. Hollie is the new nursery employee who will work from 8:30 till Noon on Sundays (covers both services.)



August 3rd Blessing of the backpacks



Zach Woolley described how Special Session at Camp McDowell has strengthened his faith and improved his life. Follow this link to read Zach's story.

[www.dioala.org/digital\\_faith/news/3166502](http://www.dioala.org/digital_faith/news/3166502)



Over the summer, Samantha Paige Eppes and Mary Claire Everitt were welcomed as our newest apostles.



Holy Apostles lost one of its earliest founding members, Lindsay Cooke, in late July. Lindsay's life was celebrated August 9 at HA with many friends and family in attendance and a eulogy given by The Rev. Maggie Taylor, founding rector of Holy Apostles.



# Calendar

## RECURRING EVENTS:

<b>HALO (monthly)</b>		<b>9/21, 10/19, 11/16</b>
<b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>HA Runners (weekly)</b>	<b>5:30 AM</b>	<b>Mon, Wed &amp; Fri</b>
<b>Men's Group Dinner (monthly)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>1st Monday</b>
<b>Cursillo Floating Reunion (weekly)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>Cursillo IV (Weekly)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>Cursillo II (every 2 weeks)</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Wednesday Beginning Jan. 22</b>
<b>Cursillo I (weekly)</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>ECW (Monthly)</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>1st Wednesday</b>
<b>Centering Prayer (weekly)</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>DOK (monthly)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>4th Thursday</b>
<b>Tapisters (monthly)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>1st Saturday</b>

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## UPCOMING

09.02.14	6:00 PM	Men's Group Dinner
09.07.14	11:30 AM 5:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Cursillo Ultreya Informational Meeting
09.08.14	6:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
09.11.14	6:00 PM	Auction Committee Planning Meeting
09.13.14	All Day	Diocesan DOK Fall Assembly hosted by Holy Apostles' DOK
09.21.14	10:00 AM 10:30 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Children's Choir sings at 10:30 AM service
09.28.14	11:30 AM	LEM Training
10.05.14	10:30 AM 11:30 AM 5:30 PM	Blessing of the Animals (outside service, weather permitting) Children's Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Cursillo Ultreya
10.09.14	6:00PM	Auction Committee Planning Meeting
10.11.14		Fall Auction – Riders Harley Davidson Event Room
10.13.14	6:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
10.19.14	10:00 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Children's Choir sings at 10:30 AM service HA 20th Anniversary
10.23.14	5:30 PM	HA 20th Anniversary Celebration & Catered Dinner
11.02.14	10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Bishop's Annual Visit; Confirmation Reception for Bishop & Confirmands





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[holycopostles.dioala.org](http://holycopostles.dioala.org)



### Regular Worship Schedule

#### 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

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