

## *The Voice of the Holy Apostles*

**Jan.-Feb. 2015**

**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

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



Dear Apostles,

As we begin a New Year, we also enter new liturgical seasons. For much of January and February, we journey through the Season after Epiphany and then begin the Season of Lent.

Epiphanies are God-given, Spirit-led moments of insight and understanding. During this season, we read about epiphany moments in the Scriptures and we look for epiphany moments in our own lives. In the spirit of the epiphany season, we offer an adult formation series that will give us insight into our family of origin and how we can have deeper relationships with those we know and love.

A special four-part educational series called *What Does My Family Have to Do With It?* will be led by Dr. Bart Grooms. It introduces us to thinking about our relationships and emotions from the perspective of natural family systems theory. The goal of these sessions will be encouraging healthier, clearer and deeper individual and community lives.

**Class meets Sunday mornings:** Jan. 25th, Feb. 1st, 8th & 15th from 9:30 to 10:15 AM.

Also on the horizon is the season of Lent, a penitential season in which we focus on our spiritual lives in an intentional way. We look at those things that get in the way of our spiritual lives and keep us from fully being the child of God we were meant to be. We will offer an adult formation series on a topic that is seldom addressed in the church--mental health issues.

We often don't know what to do (and how to help) those we know and love with mental health issues. When we have a physical ailment or problem it is easy to ask for help. When the issue is depression, addiction or childhood trauma, we begin to whisper or say nothing. When a family member goes to drug treatment, nobody brings a casserole.

This four -part series called *No One Brings a Casserole* will be led by special guest, Dr. Steve Moore, a counselor and therapist at the Moore Institute who will help us understand these issues in a new way.

**Class meets Sunday mornings:** Feb. 22nd, Mar. 1st, 8th & 15th from 9:30-10:15 AM.

My hope and prayer is that these classes will be engaging, informative, and helpful to you and your family. Bart and Steve are gifted speakers and teachers who have blessed other churches in the Birmingham area. We are very fortunate to have them with us the next couple of months. Please join us for these upcoming series!

Warmest regards,

*Blake*

## Changes to holyapostleshoover.org!

2015 is looking to be an exciting year for the Communications Ministry and holyapostleshoover.org. Already this year, we've worked to move the church over to using new e-mail addresses. Please update your contacts to reflect these new addresses:

Rev. Blake Hutson: bhutson@holyapostleshoover.org  
 Rev. Deacon Marti Holmes: mholmes@holyapostleshoover.org  
 EYC Coordinator Julia Sanford: jsanford@holyapostleshoover.org  
 Parish Administrator Teresa Byars: tbyars@holyapostleshoover.org  
 Interim Minister of Music Nadya Bogdan: nbogdan@holyapostleshoover.org  
 Website/social media updates: webmaster@holyapostleshoover.org

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

## Photo policy developed for the 21st century

The 21st century is an exciting time--with access to more information than our predecessors, twenty-four hours a day. We can immediately share information with one another to coordinate ministries or introduce new members, announce the latest events or those yet to come. However, with this explosion in technology also comes a responsibility to safeguard our parishioners. Sadly, there are those not among the parish who can access our Website, Facebook page, newsletter, or weekly e-mail for their own purposes. Fr. Blake consulted the Diocese to see what their recommendation was for photos of children on the Internet and church Website.

To protect children's images, the Diocese only uses photos of children/teenagers when parent waivers have been signed. A sentence or two is included in registration forms when parents register their children for events. This is done at the Diocesan level and it's the recommendation of the Diocese at the parish level. Therefore, Holy Apostles is now choosing with care the images we publish. We are specifically looking for photos that do not allow for individual children to be clearly seen or identified. We are also working to develop registration forms for children/youth programs. Please understand that this is for the safety of our children--when you post, we ask that you respect these recommendations. As always, your Communication Ministry Team is working to provide you with the latest, clearest, most beneficial information possible. Thank you for your assistance!

--Mary Paris, Vestry



*The Annual Parish Meeting held in late October celebrated outgoing Vestry and newly elected Vestry members. Vestry members with Fr. Blake Hutson, left to right, include: Michael Woolley; Charles McCombs, Sr. Warden; Jason Whatley; Kristy Riley; Toni Leo, Junior Warden; Jan Mize, and Mary Paris. Not pictured: Suzanne Dunbar, Terry Lake*

## HA's Christmas Outreach felt throughout the year!

Although the Bridge Ministries' office is located at the Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, its impact can be felt 'locally'; i.e., including Hoover. Partnerships with supporters and churches in the "Over the Mountain" community make this possible.

When requests for help reach Bridge Ministries, assistance can be provided throughout the city and Jefferson County. For example, Holy Apostles' parishioner Lisa Isay, the Director at Bridge Ministries, was contacted by the Hoover Fire Department. They requested help for a family (now living in Hoover) whose home was lost in a fire. Lisa found a way to help, and happily, the entire family was provided with a special Christmas this past December.

The Christmas Season tradition of giving generously to Bridge Ministries continued this past December. Parishioners at HA provided many types of wonderful donations: 45 Christmas Shoeboxes and infant gifts; Beanie Babies; food and personal care items; and even several bags of clothing. Often monetary donations are made at this time of the year. These gifts brightened the holidays for so many in desperate need! Additionally, some of these donations will provide assistance through the winter months ahead.



Another source of food and personal care items was the Hoover Recreation Center. Parishioner Dee Nance, who works for the Hoover Parks and Recreation Department, suggested hosting a collection drive that would benefit Bridge Ministries. Jamie Foster Losada, Fitness Manager at the Center, organized the preparation of the collection boxes. Members, staff, and visitors contributed items for the project.

Often, the Christmas shoeboxes are the only gifts that Bridge Ministries' clients and their children receive during Christmas. However, as a special bonus this year, Apostle Rose Marie Bunn and the Hoover Single Seniors group to which she belongs, donated extra toys to Bridge Ministries. These unexpected gifts for children were provided to many grateful parents.



Christmas came to so many in our community--children, the elderly, veterans, the disabled, and clients referred by hospitals and hospice--because of the giving spirit of Holy Apostles' parishioners. For additional information on Bridge Ministries, please contact Lisa Isay by e-mail [bridgemn@bellsouth.net](mailto:bridgemn@bellsouth.net).  
-- Lisa Isay



*Fr. Blake Hutson helped deliver Gifts from St. Nicholas to Trace Crossings Elementary School. The shoes filled with candies, fruit, and gift cards from Chick-Fil-A on Highway 150 in Hoover, were accepted by (left to right) Counselor Angela Smith; Assistant Principal Amanda Stone; and Principal Carol Barber. HA parishioners helped sixty-one children.*

## New Laypersons serve the parish



Have you noticed new faces administering the chalice during Holy Eucharist or heard new voices sharing the Lessons? Chalice Bearers are laypersons licensed by the bishop and authorized by a priest to administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist. Certain criteria and special training are needed in this ministry. A Lay Reader is any layperson who participates in reading scripture in the worship service, usually a lesson(s) from the Bible (does not include the Gospel.)

According to the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) is “an extraordinary ministry” that isn’t meant to replace the ministry of priest or deacon. However, an LEM may administer the Eucharist to those unable to attend services because of illness or infirmity. The LEM for the Early Service also serves as Acolyte. In some churches, a lay reader might offer the Chalice.

Vestments for the LEM, shown here by Justin Aldridge on his first Sunday serving in this ministry, include the alb, a narrow sleeved full-length vestment which is the basic liturgical garment used since the 19th century. The chasuble, a garment oval in shape with an opening for the head, is the vestment worn by the celebrant during Communion. An appropriate stole (according to the

Church calendar) is worn only by a priest around the shoulders while deacons wear it on the left shoulder. (Anglican-churchoftheamericas.org).

Among the new Chalice Bearers are Justin Aldridge, Richard Riley, and Caleb Gilbert, who has served for several years as a Crucifer and Acolyte. New lectors reading the Lessons include Dale Tomlinson, Lisa Gaddis, Dr. Edwin Kelsey, and Helen Nickerson.

Congratulations to our new Chalice Bearers, LEM’s and Lay Readers.

-Jerry Robertson

## A story of three kings

Always be prepared.

You’ve heard this maxim before, but...it is a good rule to utilize for many situations including walking into the Narthex of Holy Apostles. With my coffee mug firmly in my hand, I was approached by Suzanne Shipley with an armful of clothes asking: “Will you be a king today?”

In an effort to be a blessing and not a burden, I agreed--as did Barbara McEntegart and Chris Gonzales.

As quickly as Superman was transformed in a telephone booth, three kings appeared in royal garments ready to rule...Oh! I mean process into the nave on the first Sunday of the New Year. The rest, as they say, is history; always be prepared!

It’s great to be a Holy Apostle!

- Milton McGehee



*On Epiphany Sunday, Three Kings arrived at the altar bearing gifts. Left to right are Milton McGehee, Barbara McEntegart, and Chris Gonzales.*

## Habitat ministry centered on love

Back in November, members of Holy Apostles gathered up to work on another home in the Birmingham Area for the 2014 Advent Build. Over the years, Apostles have helped build affordable housing for more than ten different families in eight different areas but this one was different.

Although every home and every family has a unique story and we are touched by all of them, Matthew Seals and his family had a little tougher road than most. A couple of years ago, Matthew's home was destroyed when an F-5 tornado ripped through their neighborhood. The Seals family suffered great losses--Matthew was paralyzed from the waist down and lost one of his children. Now this single father of two teenagers, Matthew (and one of his sons and his daughter) have a new home through the efforts of all the wonderful people who support Habitat. The dedication was beautiful and not a dry eye was seen as Matthew and his family expressed their gratitude. Especially touching to me was his comment of how overwhelmed they were by the love received from so many people--most of whom they had never met before.

Isn't it a beautiful thing when you can help a complete stranger and touch lives? One of life's greatest gifts is the ability to love. That is precisely the center of this ministry--to love and serve others in need. I can't wait for the next build coming up in March and the opportunity to be part of another touching story!

-Kenn Gaddis



*Habitat for Humanity is one of the longest-running Outreach activities at Holy Apostles. 2014's Advent Build benefitted the Seals family whose new home was dedicated in December.*



*Interim Music Director, Nadya Bogdan, works with Toni Leo on musical arrangements.*



## HA welcomes Interim Music Director

Holy Apostles' Choir visited The Oaks on Parkwood to share Christmas music in early December. After the program, the members gathered at a local restaurant for a chance to say 'Godspeed and farewell' to Shaun Pezant as he transitioned to a new ministry. They presented a framed photo of the choir to Shaun. In late December, Shaun and his family said 'goodbye' to Holy Apostles and were honored with a luncheon. Nadya Bogdan as been named Interim Music Director. Welcome!!



## December birthdays feted at EP

Episcopal Place in downtown Birmingham allows senior and disabled adults to live life fully—with friendships, independence, and a variety of programs. They lived in affordable housing with access to related services such as a social worker, meals, housekeeping, pastoral care, and transportation. Each month, the residents with birthdays that month, along with other residents, celebrate together with local churches as hosts. Holy Apostles hosted the December birthday party in a unique ministry that delivers fun for the residents and joy for the volunteers.



*Residents enjoyed Christmas music*



*and a birthday menu in December at Episcopal Place.*

This past December, Apostles provided birthday cake with ice cream, soft drinks and coffee, small gifts, and Christmas carols for the residents. Ministry leader Carol Dashiff wrote a letter of thanks to those who served in this ministry: “What a joyful celebration and what a great team of people you are, who require no shepherding from human hands! There were many exclamations about the lovely sheet cake, the music, and the hands-on care and loving communication of the servers. Every one of you had a knack for valuing and appreciating the residents and it warmed many hearts. Thanks to the old-timers from last year for continuing on this year and thanks to the newcomers who re-energized our team with enthusiasm and know-how, and made everything feel fresh and new! I love how everything naturally came together! HOLY SPIRIT at work!”



## Fall Youth Sunday featured Paige Shelton



During special Spring and Fall services, the youth at Holy Apostles take over the service. This past November, Fr. Blake emphasized the important role of our teenagers in our church family. He recounted some of the great Biblical stories in both the Old and New Testaments where the input of youth has been felt for thousands of years. “Youth,” he stated, “have an active role in our community.” In November, HA heard from a senior at Hoover High School, Paige Shelton, as she presented her homily on the role of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason in her life.

While contemplating a subject for her talk, she read a line in a book where the character remarked that Sunday was “a day of rest, and for me, a day of reflection. Not because of the day itself, but how I am more connected to my faith than any other day of the week.” Paige related how she takes home a message every Sunday from the Scriptures that helps her deal with “all the things that happen in the world around me.” She recounted her first Sunday as Crucifer, an Episcopal Tradition during which she felt nervous. Deacon Marti Holmes helped her to focus not on herself and a performance, but to “see myself as a representative of the parish.” Paige continued, “I can be vulnerable but safe at Holy Apostles and give myself completely.” Paige believes that with Reason, she can “justify my beliefs to the outside world” without being

judgmental or defensive. Sharing her faith has strengthened her. “My faith helps me to grow as a person and become more mature and respectful, able to further myself and spiritual growth.”

Paige ended her homily with an enormous compliment to Holy Apostles’ adults: “I am incredibly grateful to have a safe place where I am constantly supported and encouraged.”

## Preparation for Taste of Heaven Begins

*Rose Marie Bunn, Chef Extraordinaire, prepared Chicken Francese (with Sous Chef Bill Davis) for Girls’ Night Out in October. The entrée will be prepared again for the EYC’s ‘Taste of Heaven Dinner’ on the evening of February 7 at HA, along with a second choice of Mediterranean Salmon. The dinner has two seatings so reservations are required. Visit <http://goo.gl/V2YFUk>. For more information, contact Julia Sanford at [Julia.sanford@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.sanford@gmail.com).*





## ADVENT/GREENING of the CHURCH/CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



*Rev. Blake and Christina Hutson gave thanks for the birth of their son, Wesley, during December with this rose on the altar.*



*The Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles received a 'facelift'—a fresh coat of paint during Advent.*

# Calendar

## RECURRING EVENTS:

Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM	Wednesday
Men's Dinner (monthly)	6:00 PM	1st Monday
Girls' Night Out	6:30 PM	3rd Thursday
Cursillo Floating Reunion (weekly)	6:00 PM	Sunday
Cursillo IV (weekly)	1:30 PM	Tuesday
Cursillo II (every 2 weeks)	6:30 PM	Wednesday
Cursillo I (weekly)	5:30 PM	Tuesday
ECW (Monthly)	6:30 PM	1st Wednesday
DOK (monthly)	6:00 PM	3rd Thursdays
Tapisters (monthly)	10:00 AM	1st Saturday

## To submit an article please email

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## UPCOMING

1.24. 2015	Property Team- Painting HS Room	2.09. 2015	6pm Vestry Meeting
1.25. 2015	Epiphany III	2.15. 2015	
8:45 am	Early Service w/Holy Eucharist and child care	8:45 am	Early Service w/Holy Eucharist and child care
9:30 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up	9:30 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
9:30 am	Christian Education Classes	9:30 am	Christian Education Classes
	Adult Formation Epiphany Series w/Bart Grooms		Adult Formation Epiphany Series ends
10:30 am	Holy Euch w/childcare	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
1.28. 2015		10:30 am	Holy Euch w/childcare -Children's Choir sing
6- 8:00 pm	ECW Meeting; Bishop Marray Guest Speaker	10:30 am	HALO - Soup Kitchen
		11:30 am	Communications Team Meeting
2.01. 2015	Epiphany IV	2.16.2015	President's Day Church & Office Closed
8:45 am	Early Service w/Holy Eucharist and child care	2.17.2015	Shrove Tuesday
9:30 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up	6:15 pm	Red Beans & Rice Supper
9:30 am	Christian Education Classes	7:00 pm	Burning of the Palms Liturgy
	Adult Formation Epiphany Series w/Bart Grooms	2.18.2015	Ash Wednesday
10:30 am	Holy Euch w/childcare	7:30 am	Holy Euch & Imposition of Ashes
11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm	Holy Euch & Imposition of Ashes
5:00 pm	EYC Super Bowl Party, Woolley/Taylor home	7:00 pm	Taize Candlelit Service w/ Imposition of Ashes
2.02. 2015		2.19.2015	6pm DOK Meeting
6 - 7:00 pm	Men's Group Dinner	02.20.2015	
2.04. 2015		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross begins;
6:30 - 7pm	ECW Meeting		continues every Friday during Lent
2.06-2.07.2015	184th Diocesan Convention	2.22.2015	Lent I
	Bryant Conf. Center, Tuscaloosa	8:45 am	Early Service w/Holy Eucharist and child care
2.07. 2015	EYC Taste of Heaven Dinner	9:30am	Adult Choir Warm-Up
2.08. 2015	Epiphany V	9:30am	Christian Education Classes
8:45 am	Early Service w/Holy Eucharist and child care	10:30am	Holy Eucharist w/childcare
9:30 am	Adult Choir Warm-Up	10:30am	Children's Choir Sings
9:30 am	Christian Education Classes	2.25.2015	Wednesday Night Lenten Class begins
	Adult Formation Epiphany Series w/Bart Grooms		- March 25th
10:30 am	Holy Euch w/childcare	3.06-3.07.2015	Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell
11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal		
5:30 pm	Lighting the Way Kick-Off (outside service, weather permitting)		