

The Voice of the Holy Apostles

March- Apr 2014

Clergy

The Rev. Blake R. Hutson
Rector

The Vestry of Holy Apostles
Senior Warden:

Charles McCombs
942-0505

Junior Warden:

Terry Lake
440-2084

Vestry:

Toni Leo

David McElroy

Dave Moon

Mary Paris

David Shipley

Bertha Smith

Michael Woolley

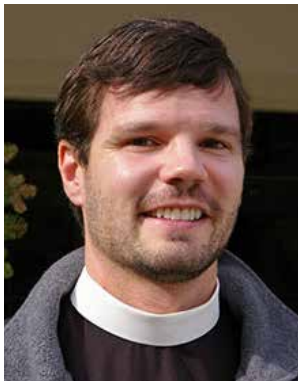
Treasurer: Dorothy White

Vestry Clerk: Margaret Morris

Choirmaster
Shaun Pezant

Parish Administrator
Teresa Byars

A Message from the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

The Season of Lent is underway. Many of us have chosen Lenten disciplines. Some have chosen to give something up, others have chosen to take on something or begin a new practice. Spiritual disciplines help us refocus our spiritual lives. They help us see ourselves and our spiritual lives more clearly and deepen our relationship with God.

Last year I came across “40 Ideas for Keeping a Holy Lent” (www.houseforall.org). Rather than one discipline for 40 days, the idea is to do something different every day during Lent. Some of my favorites:

Day 3: Don't turn on the car radio

Day 5: Take 5 minutes of silence at noon

Day 6: Look out the window until you find something of beauty you had not noticed before

Day 12: Pray the Paper (pray for people and situations in today's news)

Day 20: Read morning and evening prayer

Day 29: Write a thank-you note to your favorite teacher

Day 38: Educate yourself about a saint www.catholic.org/saints

From this sample, you get the idea. This Lent we can be creative and ‘think outside the box.’ Whatever practice(s) you choose, remember: the season of Lent is not about rules or legalism. It's about cultivating the spiritual life. This season, practice introspection and ask for forgiveness. Invite the transforming work of God into your discipline. At the end of this season, may your spiritual life be strengthened and renewed and may you experience God's grace in a new way.

Warm regards,

Blake

My Response to Serving on the Annual Response Committee

by Suzanne Dunbar

I have just accepted the privilege of being a member of the Annual Response Committee for Holy Apostles. I say privilege because I feel that serving the Lord in any way is a privilege. In my experience, I've always received more than I've given. I learned this as a child. When I gave a drawing to someone that was labeled with something like "I love you" or "You are the best," I always felt great pleasure when it made the recipient happy. The giving probably made me happier than it made the recipient. The nature of giving was driven home to me when I spent one year in Honduras as a teacher and missionary the year after I graduated from college many years ago. I went there to serve the Lord by showing his love to his children. When I came back to the states to give a homily to the church who had sponsored me I felt I needed to justify their money and tell about all the good I had done. But upon reflection I realized that I had so much joy inside and had grown so much as a person, that I was the bigger beneficiary.

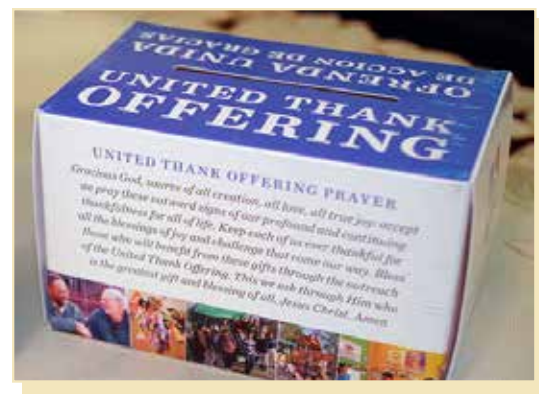


We all know that Holy Apostles is a wonderful, loving, and joyful place. I think it's because we are a community of givers. Giving makes us happy. It's better than an investment because when you invest, you do it to make a profit. But in giving, you do it out of the love in your heart and the desire to give a gift to God. What a wonderful thing it is to be able to give! I remember years ago when a relative was talking about how it was a shame that my grandfather had to take care of one of his daughters when he should be having fun in retirement. But he had told me several times that he didn't like getting old because he couldn't do some of the things he could do before old age set in. So my first thought about him taking care of someone was that it was a blessing. He couldn't play golf or garden as well as he used to, but he was still able to give.

Giving is a privilege, one of God's many gifts to us; I thank him for the opportunity to serve.

Give a few cents for Lent

A mite is not a bug, but a small contribution of money placed in a box, often during Lent, as alms for charitable purposes. The Episcopal Church Women of Holy Apostles are initiating this practice during the Lenten season in 2014. Now called the United Thank Offering (UTO), you'll see the little blue boxes for distribution in the Narthex. Take one home and place it on your dresser! Drop a few coins into the box each morning or afternoon in thanksgiving for your blessings! Encourage your children to do this for Lent to teach thanksgiving and sacrifice. Right after Easter, you can place the Mite Box (or UTO envelope) into a special location for the ingathering by the ECW, which is then forwarded to the Diocese of Alabama.



Help us bring this ancient tradition (2nd Kings 12:9) to Holy Apostles!



Lenten series offered for adults and high-schoolers

Dr. Dennis Sansom has returned to Holy Apostles to lead the Adult Formation Lenten Series, “Our Faith and the Ecumenical Creeds.” Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Samford University, Dr. Sansom began the series March 9 and will continue the classes through April 13th from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM in the nave. Join us at any time!

Meanwhile, the High School Sunday School class continues its six-week series on prayer with Week Three exploring the purpose of and creation of a labyrinth; Week Four centering prayers and mantras; Week Five the purpose and creation of Anglican prayer beads; culminating in Week Six with Stations of the Cross on April 6th.

The Special Ministry of Deacon comes to Holy Apostles

A deacon’s role in the church may differ by denomination, but the Biblical role is to handle more physical and logistical needs so that the elder, or priest, may concentrate on his/her primary calling. In the Episcopal Church, a deacon is required to go through the process of ordination that includes screening, education, and initiation into the Diaconate.

Reverend Marti Homes is now the Deacon at Holy Apostles—ordained to the Diaconate in 2011 and with experience as Deacon at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn. A longtime Episcopalian, she was a Pilgrim at AL Cursillo #59; completed Disciples of Christ in Community and EFM curriculae; and served at the Diocese on the Stewardship Committee and as a parish consultant. She currently is responsible full-time for the overall operation of Jeremiah’s Hope Academy in the Department of Community Service and Outreach at St. Vincent’s Hospital, Birmingham.

Reverend Holmes stated “my diaconate call comes from my deep desire to care for and assist those who are poor and vulnerable; to bring them more fully to self-sufficiency and inclusion in the Christian community.” Of her assignment to HA, she added, “I am pleased and grateful to Bishop Sloan and Fr. Blake for the opportunity to serve at Holy Apostles, ... a spirit-filled community, full of joy and sense of mission.”

Marti Holmes and her husband, Frank, will welcome their first grandchild in July

Welcome to Holy Apostles!

(Read The Ordination of a Deacon,
Book of Common Prayer p. 537-542)





Apostles' Crawfish Boil set for May 3rd

The 17th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Boilmaster Paul Gilbert will serve crawfish and shrimp along with the Apostles with Fire adding gumbo to the menu (with a side of potato salad.) Assisting Chef Bill Davis this year will be Justin Aldridge and John Ross Havard. The boil is set for 10:30 AM until 3 PM. Tickets for either boiled crawfish or shrimp with corn and potatoes or Gumbo and potato salad are \$10 per serving; and chargrilled hotdogs are available for children of all ages. Activities and entertainment scheduled for all ages! Pick up a live crawfish--and dance to the music! For tickets, contact Bill Davis. Phone 205-616-2622 or e-mail billdavis2ii@att.net.

2014 Diocesan Convention Notes

As we have happily learned to expect, Bishop Sloan's address to the Diocesan Convention was the weekend's brightest moment. On the Sunday following the convention, Father Blake read us part of the Bishop's inspiring "vision of the Kingdom of God," but the complete talk is well worth accessing on the Diocesan website.

Though the convention offered no substantial resolutions for debate and vote, there were sessions for conversations about matters involved in "holding fast to that which is good" and "singing a new song to the Lord" such as economic justice and the blessing of same gender unions. Among other convention highlights: the beautiful closing Eucharistic service Saturday evening; the Diocesan Youth leading Compline on Friday evening and energizing us spiritually and musically at other moments; videos reporting on Diocesan events and committee work (all available on the Diocesan website); the chance to commune with clergy and delegates from other parishes; and perhaps most gratifying of all, witnessing the really outstanding and generous work of individuals from Holy Apostles in serving and hosting the convention. No one could miss how loving and special our parish is.

The Apostles with Fire cooked and served the Clergy Spouses Luncheon with superb friendliness and grace--and received well-deserved accolades. Other Holy Apostles did excellent work handling registration, facilitating elections, counting votes, and helping with set-up and clean-up at the luncheon.

The convention experience was a great pleasure and privilege, and confirms how tremendous a blessing it is to belong to our parish and our dynamic Episcopal Diocese.

-Jim Mersmann



Walking the Stations of the Cross an ancient tradition...

“In virtually every time and place known to history, men and women have gone on pilgrimage,” writes noted theologian George Wiegel, author of *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches* published by Basic Books, 2013. This lovely book of art, architecture, and man’s quest for truth relates the history of the practice and provides color plates so beautifully photographed that it “will delight your eye and feed your soul,” said one critic. Today we continue this practice by walking the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings (6:00 PM) at Holy Apostles.

When Christianity was illegal—from about 64 A.D. through 313 A.D.—Christians went underground literally and figuratively. For two and a half centuries, Christians were persecuted. Once Constantine I legalized and converted to Christianity, the practice of pilgrimage, developed during this difficult period, became formalized and synonymous with Lent during the fourth and fifth centuries. In those days, the Bishop of Rome celebrated Mass at a tomb or site of early Christian martyrs, gathering in the late afternoon at a place called the *collecta*. From there, the pilgrims processed through the streets of Rome to the “*statio*” or station church of the day. Fasting had gone on during the day, and was broken after the service with a new form of grace before the Fast was broken—the *Benedicamus Domino* (Let us Bless the Lord). Eventually station churches were assigned to each day in Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. The second millennium saw a dying out of the practice during the “Babylonian Captivity”, with its revitalization in the mid-1970s by the Pontifical North American College, where seminarians prepared for the priesthood. The walks began in Rome regardless of a person’s religious beliefs and have literally continued into the 21st Century.

Christians prepare throughout Lent for the apex of the Liturgical year—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter’s Vigil. Today’s Lent practices challenge us to recognize the baptismal character of the penitential season by using the “rediscovery of the ancient human instinct for pilgrimage...” states Mr. Wiegel.



And, an act of devotion ...

Stations of the Cross commemorate Christ’s Passion. Walking the Stations of the Cross allows Christians to retrace the path Jesus took to the Cross in an act of devotion. *Statio* means to stop, pray, read scripture, and reflect upon events during Jesus’ last days. Each event is a station.

Although the number of ‘stations’ varied over time, the number was finally set at 14 during the 18th century. Eight are directly from the Gospel and six refer to the Gospel or legends.

First: Jesus is condemned to death.

Second: Jesus takes up his cross.

Third: Jesus falls for the first time.

Fourth: Jesus meets his mother.

Fifth: The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene.

Sixth: A woman wipes the face of Jesus.

Seventh: Jesus falls a second time.

Eighth: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Ninth: Jesus falls a third time.

Tenth: Jesus is stripped of his garments.

11th: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

12th: Jesus died on the cross.

13th: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.

14th: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Christ rises from the dead.



Calendar

RECURRING EVENTS:

HALO (monthly)		3/16, 4/20 (Easter Sunday), and 5/18
Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM	Monday
HA Runners (weekly)	5:30 AM	Mon, Wed & Fri
Vestry Meeting (monthly)	6:00 PM	2nd Monday
Men's Group Dinner (monthly)	6:00 PM	1st Monday
Cursillo Floating Reunion (weekly)	6:00 PM	Sunday
Cursillo II (every 2 weeks)	6:30 PM	Wednesday Beginning Jan. 22
Cursillo I (weekly)	5:30 PM	Tuesday
Morning Prayer (weekly)	6:30 AM	Wednesday
ECW (Monthly)	6:30 PM	1st Wednesday
Centering Prayer (weekly)	6:30 PM	Thursday
DOK (monthly)	6:00 PM	4th Thursday
Tapisters (monthly)	10:00 AM	1st Saturday

To submit an article please email
 Contact *The Voice* editor, Deborah Burnett
 at debbie.burnnett@gmail.com
 Designer Emma Wang emma.wang@att.net

UPCOMING

03.19.14	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Lenten Supper and Study at the church, Fr. Blake leads
03.21.14	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
03.22.14	7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.	Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith. Contact: Kenn Gaddis
03.26.14	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Lenten Supper and Study at the church, Fr. Blake leads
03.28.14	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
03.29.14	All Day	Church Building closed; Floor waxing
04.02.14	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Lenten Supper and Study at the church, Fr. Blake leads
04.04.14	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
04.05.14	7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.	Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith. 2nd Lenten Build - Contact: Kenn Gaddis
04.09.14	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Lenten Supper and Study at the church, Fr. Blake leads
04.11.14	6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
04.17.14	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Compline Service, Stripping of the Altar
04.18.14	12:00 Noon 6:30 p.m.	Good Friday Service (Meditation, Scripture & Prayer) The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Preacher Good Friday Svc (Liturgy, Communion from Reserved Sacrament) The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Preacher
04.19.14	7:30 p.m.	Holy Saturday -Easter Vigil
04.20.14	6:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 Noon	Easter Day Sunrise Eucharist(outside/weather permitting) Easter Day Holy Eucharist II Easter Day Festival Eucharist Easter Egg Hunt
04.26.14	11:00 a.m.	Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala. Contact: Bill Davis.
05.03.14	10:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m.	17th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil
05.15.14	All Day	Regions Tradition Golf Tournament



Mark your calendars!
Holy Apostles 2014
Vacation Bible School
This summer's theme is
"Weird Animals"
June 16th-19th
8:30-11:30

contact Jan Mize - 205-601-7460
janau90@bellsouth.net

Apostles with Fire
 to compete in the 9th Annual Gumbo Gala
 Saturday, April 26, 2014
 11am-2pm Sloss Furnaces

Episcopal
 PLACE
**GUMBO
 GALA**



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

holypostles.dioala.org



Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:45 AM Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Christian Formation w/nursery
10:00 AM Choir Warm-up
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist w/child care. Fellowship following the service.
6:30 AM Wednesday Morning Prayer

Location

424 Emery Drive
Hoover, Alabama 35244
Telephone: (205) 988-8000
E-mail:
Parish Administrator:
parishadm.holypostles@gmail.com
Parish Priest:
holypostlesrector@gmail.com