

## *The Voice of the Holy Apostles*

**May-June 2014**

**Clergy**

The Rev. Blake R. Hutson  
Rector

The Rev. Marti Holmes  
Deacon

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

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**Junior Warden:**

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David McElroy

Dave Moon

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Bertha Smith

Michael Woolley

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Vestry Clerk: Margaret Morris

Choirmaster  
Shaun Pezant

Parish Administrator  
Teresa Byars

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



Dear Apostles,

With the summer months approaching, we think of the summer as a time to relax a bit and catch our breath. Summer is a time for going to camp or on a family vacation. It's also a time to reflect on our lives. We might ask ourselves: what is at the center of my life?

A recent article reminded me that our lives revolve around a variety of different things and competing interests. Looking through the lens of our faith, we see the competition between God and the "gods." One way to define a god is to ask yourself these questions:

- ... What is at the center of my life?
- ... What is most important to me?
- ... What drives me?
- ... What is the primary influence in shaping and forming me?
- ... Is a behavior compulsive, like an addiction?
- ... What gives my life meaning? and
- ... What/Who do I worship?

For us, there are many different gods. When you check Facebook, on what are people commenting? As you surf the Internet, read news outlets, watch the evening news or simply observe the behavior of people, what are the popular gods we worship? Where do people look for meaning?

The first and greatest commandment in the Bible insists that there is only room for one God in this world and that is the One who created the world and us. All other gods are false gods and worshipping them is called idolatry. Somebody once said, "When we gather around anyone less than God we become something less than human."

God loves each of us. That means we are important and significant. The God we serve gives our life meaning and purpose. As people of faith, we need to ask ourselves from time to time: What do we worship and what is at the center of our lives?

While away this summer, attend to your spiritual life. Visit local churches, study, pray and look for God in a different setting. Use this summer as a time to refocus and reprioritize, if needed. Join us for worship and stay connected to our community life. This is important at Holy Apostles because God is at the center of our community life. Our prayer is that we be guided by the Holy Spirit and be formed into the image of Christ that we might do God's work in the world.

Warm regards,

*Blake*

## Annual Response Committee member shares blessings



As one of the newer Holy Apostles I can say without a doubt God is at work in our church and in our community.

I am here as a result of the Holy Spirit directing me and the invitation of my gracious neighbors Kathy and David Whatley.

As many of you know I have quite a diverse background--having been a member of various denominations. But I have found my home! It didn't take long for several of you to ask me or perhaps 'draft' me to participate in some of the wonderful ministries here at Holy Apostles. For example, recently The Apostles with Fire presented the 17th Annual Crawfish and Shrimp Boil. It goes without saying, 'a good time was had by all!' However this would not have been possible without the generous donations of time, talent, commitment, and yes, money!

Why do we have a crawfish boil and the Annual Auction? In addition to a good time and lots of food, it is another way to tell our community about God's love and Holy Apostles. This is just one of the many missions we lovingly support: The Bread Ministry, The Bridge Ministry, Three Hots and A Cot, Habitat for Humanity, and HALO are just a few there are other choices we have to share our bountiful blessings that God has so lovingly given us.

If you need help finding your place in our mission field, just ask. We have a place for you and we will be more than happy to share with you all the information you need to make the decision that works best to use your time and talent.

Remember two things: 'God loves a cheerful giver' and it's great to be a Holy Apostle!

—Milton McGeehee

## Your change for blessings changes lives!

Early legend surrounds the United Offering as it was known in 1889. The first ingathering amounted to only \$87. The ladies of the Episcopal churches thought if women knew where their money was going, the donations might be greater. They were correct--the United Offering became the United Thank Offering (UTO) in the year 1919 and the triennium offering totaled \$1,371,537. Early donations were evenly divided between domestic and overseas projects.

The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God by placing a few coins in blue boxes or "mite boxes" as an outward sign of those prayers that benefit others at home and abroad. The mission is entrusted to the women of the church—Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Through a system of granting, our small change builds schools, hospitals, church buildings, and helps finance education all over the USA and the world.

The ECW, barely a year in existence at Holy Apostles, initiated the program during Lent—as a discipline of thanks by both adults and children. One week after Easter saw the ingathering of mite boxes at 'the Old Rugged Cross,' built and designed by Jim Mersmann for the ECW. A check was sent to our local Diocese in the amount of \$359.03 (along with several Canadian coins and a two-cent Euro!) The ECW thanks all parishioners for their thoughtful and generous gifts!



# WEIRD ANIMALS TO VISIT VBS IN JUNE!

# WEIRD ANIMALS

Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind

A summer kids' event called Weird Animals VBS will be hosted at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles from June 16th through June 19th. At Weird Animals, kids will learn about some of God's most creative creations! They'll participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, and experience cool Bible adventures. They'll also test Scency-Fun Gizmos they'll take



home and play with all summer long. Kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called 'God Sightings'. Each day concludes with 'The Tail End'--a celebration that gets everyone involved

in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:15 AM.

A special kick-off is scheduled for Monday, June 16th, when the children are visited by some real 'weird' animals! Our young apostles will be aided by adult volunteers including Jan Mize, Kristy Dikeman, Lisa Gaddis, Margaret Morris, Barb McEntegart, Kristy Riley, Lauren Havard, Meredith Phillips, Marjee Frier, Laura Eppes, and Julia Vaughn.



Kids at Weird Animals VBS will join local efforts to share God's love by donating peanut butter and jelly for school children through Bridge Ministries. Weird Animals VBS is for children from age three to rising fifth graders and will run from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM daily. For more information, contact Jan Mize at [janau90@bellsouth.net](mailto:janau90@bellsouth.net).





## Davis Family celebrates Easter at HALO

Easter Sunday was celebrated by the Davis family at Holy Apostles' Lunch Outreach. Andy acknowledged providing "our own labor force. We feed anywhere from 50-75 people with sometimes as many as 20 children included in those numbers. We generally begin preparing the meal around 10:30 which includes a main portion (usually spaghetti, chicken and noodles, or chili during the winter months) along with a salad, vegetable, a piece of fruit, and then a roll with water and sweet tea. We prepare the plates and hand them out from 12:00 to 1:30, then clean the kitchen and the parish hall where the folks eat their lunch."

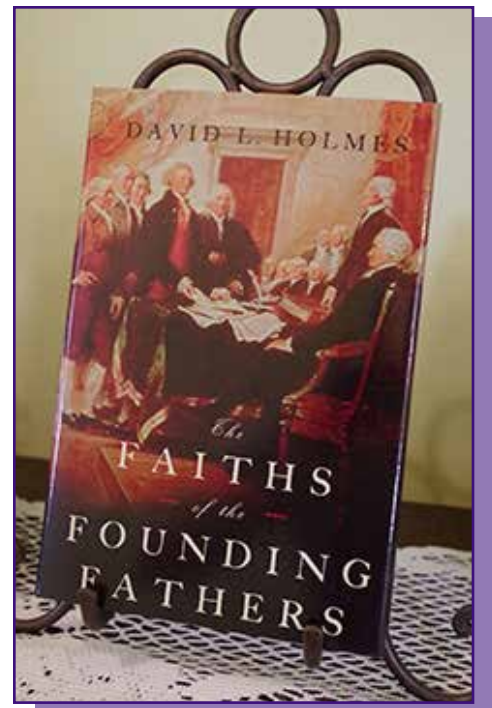
### Book Review

## Presidents, politics, and religion: subject of *Faiths of the Founding Fathers*

*Faiths of the Founding Fathers* provided the framework for Fr. Blake's Adult Formation class this past month. Most of us learn about our nation's birth without any personal details about the Founding Fathers. This succinct text by David L. Holmes (2006: Oxford University Press) traces the early religions in the American Colonies geographically; discusses the Evangelical Movements; details a belief born of The Enlightenment (Deism); then personalizes the religious views of six of the Founding Fathers. In addition, three Orthodox Christian founders' beliefs are described and a "Layperson's Guide" to distinguishing Deism from Orthodoxy is provided.

The Epilogue chapter discusses the most recent evangelical movement and its partisan nature in terms of presidential politics ranging from Episcopalian Gerald Ford to Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter to Presbyterian Ronald Reagan to the "throwback to the era of the founding fathers"—George H.W. Bush #41 (Episcopalian) to the 'mixed' religions of the Clintons to the Religious Right-ism of George Bush #43.

Perhaps the most profound statement from the author is in his closing: "Americans are concerned that their presidents be sincere men and women of faith. These founding men and women were often sincere believers." However, he states, their faith was different from that held by Americans of later generations and that we should tell our history, "warts and all. To do otherwise is to be untrue not only to history but also to the founders themselves. 'The past is a foreign country,' " Holmes quotes a 20th century writer of the 18th century religious beliefs. "They do things differently there."



### Palm Sunday & EYC Salad Bar

### Building on Faith: 2014 Habitat for Humanity



## Website has new interactive capability

The Holy Apostles Communications Team is always working to improve how we get the word out about the church to both you and the Hoover community. Our Website has proven to be an important tool in doing so; many new members have come in to us, telling us that the site (<http://www.holyapostleshover.org>) was their first point of contact with Holy Apostles.

After discussion with Father Blake, we have made some changes to the layout of the site to improve clarity, relevance in Google and other searches, and usability. Perhaps most important is the use of interactive forms in two places, for general contacts and for prayer requests. Visitors can now send a message directly to the Church Office without needing to do it as an e-mail from a separate program; just fill in the boxes and click Submit or Send. The prayer request works the same way, and is passed confidentially to the correct people, such as the Daughters of the King.

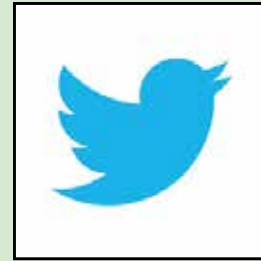
You may find some pages have disappeared or moved. If you have lost a favorite location, contact Bruce Klaiss ([klaiss@gmail.com](mailto:klaiss@gmail.com)), and he'll help you find what you're looking for, or explain why it has disappeared.

## Facebook stats show HA's reach

Each week, Facebook Administrator Rod Scott and two co-managers of the page receive statistics on the Holy Apostles page. Recently, Rod selected the highest rated posts for the last several months through Easter.

'Recently at Holy Apostles' photo album reached 100 people; 'At Holy Apostles' (March 5) 112 people; Men's Group post without a photo was viewed by 113 people while Girls' Night Out with photo album reached 118 people. The Holy Week schedule with photos (April 12) was viewed by 156 people and the Easter Sunrise service photos reached 384 people. Crawfish Boil notices of April 6th, 9th, and 21st reached over 1,500; 162 and 384 persons, respectively.

The Communications Team found the results exciting. Fr. Blake added, "Facebook is a tool we use for both evangelism and communication. We need to be aware of these numbers and how we are reaching our parish community—and beyond." Rod plans to monitor Facebook stats quarterly.



## Update: Follow @ApostlesHoover on Twitter

Holy Apostles is increasing its focus on using Social Media. In an effort to reach individuals who aren't on Facebook, we joined Twitter as well last Fall. "To date," says Lane Oden, Twitter manager, "tweets came from the EYC and Gumbo Gala teams, but I've linked the Facebook page to Twitter so anything I tweet will automatically post to Facebook as well..." FAQ from Lane Oden:

1. What is posted on Twitter?  
Our Communications Ministry posts occasional updates (known as Tweets) to Twitter. Tweets may include a photo from coffee hour or of a guest speaker for Adult Education. It may include recent news regarding the parish and upcoming events. Occasionally, we may also share uplifting Tweets from various other sources we follow locally, nationally, and globally.
2. Do I need to have a Twitter account to see @ApostlesHoover Tweets?  
No. Unlike Facebook, you can still view our Tweets without signing up to use Twitter. Just visit, <http://www.twitter.com/ApostlesHoover>. To receive our Tweets automatically, you will need to sign up for a free Twitter account and then Follow us from that link.
3. If I'm already a Fan on Facebook, do I still need to Follow @ApostlesHoover on Twitter?  
That's up to you. Currently, we manage the two social media outlets separately, so the content can vary. We have integrated the two.

During the recent bad weather, our Bishops Marray and Sloan sent this Facebook message during the storm: From your bishops: Devastating tornadoes and thunderstorms are sweeping across our state this evening. They have already caused destruction, injury, and loss of life. Your bishops want you to know that we are praying for your safety and for the safety of your loved ones. May God's comfort and embrace, with the warmth of his eternal presence, hold those who are in fear, those who are suffering and those who are grieving this difficult night.

+Kee  
+Santosh

# Easter Sunday - A Full House



## Apostles with Fire and 3HAC score awards at Gumbo Gala



Left to right (back): Courtney Sargent, Lane Oden, David McElroy, James Holcombe, Michael Woolley, Susan Jackson, Justin Aldridge. Front row: Richard Eppes, Kenn Gaddis, Dave Moon and Bill Davis.



Three Hots and A Cot won the First Place Award for Best Specialty Gumbo (made with smoked duck and Andouille sausage.) The First Place Spirit Award for tent and table decorations went to the Apostles with Fire.

## Apostles with Fire host 17th Annual Crawfish Boil at HA





# Calendar

## RECURRING EVENTS:

<b>HALO (monthly)</b>		<b>5/18, 6/15, 7/20, 8/17</b>
<b>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 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>

**To submit an article please email**  
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## UPCOMING

05.15.14	All Day	Regions Tradition Golf Tournament
06.01.14	10:30 Service	Holy Baptism –
06.05.14	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Auction Planning Committee Meeting @ HA
06.08.14	3:00 PM	HA Birmingham Baron's Baseball Game @ Regions Park
06.08.14		Newcomers' Brunch following the 10:30 AM service
06.16.14	8:30 - 11:30 AM	Vacation Bible School
-06.19.14		
06.21.14	7:30 AM - Noon	Property Guild Workday – at HA
06.22.14	10:30 AM	All Generations Church Service
06.29.14	10:30 AM	Prayers & Praise Gospel Service 5th Sunday Prayers for Healing following the 10:30 AM service
	11:30 AM	Parish Life Sundaes Sunday
07.06.14		Coffee Hour Anniversary Celebration hosted by Robertson family - 50th Wedding Anniversary - Page & Jerry Robertson.
07.10.14	7:30 - 9:00 AM	HA Hosts - Hoover Chamber of Commerce Coffee & Contacts
08.03.14	10:30 AM Service	DOK Induction –
08.10.14	10:30 AM Service	Holy Baptism
08.11.14	6:00 PM	Vestry Meeting

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles welcomes you!

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

- 8:45 a.m. Early Eucharist
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (childcare provided)
- 10:30 a.m. Eucharist (childcare provided)

424 Emery Drive Hoover, AL 35244 (205) 988-8000 [holyapostles.dioala.org](http://holyapostles.dioala.org)

*Although HA has embraced social media, traditional methods of reaching out are used, such as this new advertisement in the Hoover Sun.*



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

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



### Regular Worship Schedule

#### Sunday

8:45 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Choir Warm-up  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist w/child care. Fellowship following the service.

#### Location

424 Emery Drive  
Hoover, Alabama 35244  
Telephone: (205) 988-8000  
E-mail:  
Parish Administrator:  
[parishadm.holycopostles@gmail.com](mailto:parishadm.holycopostles@gmail.com)  
Parish Priest:  
[holycopostlesrector@gmail.com](mailto:holycopostlesrector@gmail.com)