

The Voice of the Holy Apostles

Summer 2015

Clergy

The Rev. Blake R. Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Marti Holmes
Deacon

The Rev. Robin Hinkle
Transitional 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

Julia Sanford
EYC Coordinator

A Message from the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

The 2014-2015 program year comes to a close and we enter the summer months -- a time when we take life at a different pace. We get caught up on work and spend quality time with family on vacation. We may travel across the state, the country, or around the world. We may go our separate ways, yet we are never far from our spiritual home.

The other day I was reminded of Paul's words in II Corinthians 12:12-27. He describes the church as being "One body, with many parts..." This is a great image for the community of faith. It was the Apostles' way of saying that all of us are individuals yet we are each an important part of the whole. As

Paul describes it, "The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you. The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you'." (vs. 21).

The same is true for us: with our diverse ministries and areas of involvement—together we make one body called to common ministry in this community. Each individual brings gifts and talents that can be used in the church. Each of you makes a valuable contribution with the work that you do, the worship that you offer, and the love that you share.

We also encourage and support one another. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad" (vs. 26). We help each other through the good times and difficult times and at Holy Apostles, we share our lives with each other.

If you are away this summer, know that we will miss you. Our faith community wouldn't be the same without you. One of the ways we support each other is through prayer. If you have a trip planned, ask our Daughters of the King to add you to their prayer list. Every day they pray for 'travelers' and will pray for you and your family on a daily basis and for your safe return.

Working together, our community has accomplished much in the last year. I sense there is still much that God is calling us to do. It is a privilege to be a part of this community, this portion of the Body of Christ. May we always remember: "All of us together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it" (vs. 27).

Warm regards,

Blake



A message from our Associate Clergy

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

I was delighted to read the above passage as one of the readings for Morning Prayer on my first official day of ministry at Holy Apostles. What a joyful message! When I was in fourth grade, my family moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Birmingham, Alabama. School had already started, so I got to enjoy that awkward elementary school experience of walking into a quiet classroom already filled with children working in their workbooks, being introduced by the teacher, Mrs. Washington, and then walking down the aisle to take my place at the only open desk at the back of the room. Being the new kid can be a tough thing! I am not certain I would classify those fourth graders as “ambassadors”. On the other hand, this congregation seems to totally live into its ministry of reconciliation as joyful spirit-filled ambassadors for Christ. The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer states that the mission of the church “is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” I think this is what St. Paul may have been writing about as well in the passage above. The church is the place of reconciliation and new creation. Christ works in our hearts to bring us closer to God and to one another. When we are reconciled to God, the light of Christ shines through us, hopefully attracting others to God. Other people want what we’ve got, and we are called to stand ready to declare the source of the hope and joy that resides within us. And so the kingdom grows within our hearts, in our neighborhood, and in the world. We truly are new creations in Christ (although still works in progress!). And so we are indeed all ambassadors for Christ, sharing his good news of salvation and reconciliation with the world. I thus believe this text is a fitting passage on which I begin a new ministry with you. I truly see my ministry, our shared ministry, as one of reconciliation—of ourselves to God and to one another. See, God has made all things new! Thanks be to God!

Robin

Lighting the Way plans for the future

As members of the Holy Apostles family, we are blessed. Not too long ago, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary! What a time to look at our storied history and plan for our future. Holy Apostles is known for its loving spirit and commitment to the community through many ministries.

But, as many wonderful aspects as there are at Holy Apostles, we are also burdened with a high mortgage payment. Can you imagine our increased ministerial impact if we didn’t have to meet this monthly commitment? Also, our wonderful family growth is stretching the physical needs of our home.

Lighting the Way is a ministry with the goal of lowering our mortgage and looking to future building expansion. This is a five-year plan. All LTW funds for the first three years go directly to reduce our mortgage principle; years four and five will go toward building expansion. So far we’ve received more than \$287,000 toward this effort. We ask you to prayerfully consider this commitment ... one beyond your much appreciated Annual Response. We hope you join us in the effort joyfully and to the glory of God. —Michael Woolley



It's Great to be a Holy Apostle!



Deacon Marti Holmes and Milton McGehee attended The Invite, Welcome, and Connect Workshop last year, led by Mary Palmer at The Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Montgomery. The program led to the new ministry called Invite, Welcome, and Connect!

The conference made for a busy day filled with much discussion, small group sessions, interesting stories and ideas designed to help us learn how to effectively invite, welcome, and connect people to become a part of our beloved church community.

Parish blessed with new Associate Clergy: Deacon Robin Hinkle

It was a beautiful Monday afternoon in downtown Birmingham.

Many friends, classmates and family members, led by Bishop Kee Sloan, gathered at The Cathedral Church of the Advent to celebrate The Ordination of Robin Hinkle to the Diaconate.

For the last three years, Robin has been at Sewanee, where she recently graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained as a Transitional Deacon and has been assigned to Holy Apostles. Her placement is a two-year gift funded by the Diocese at minimal cost to our parish.

For the next few months, we will have two deacons. Marti Holmes, our Vocational Deacon, will continue her ministry while Robin will be a Deacon for the next six months. Then we anticipate her ordination to the priesthood this fall.

Take time to meet Robin, her husband Scott, and daughter Sadie and extend them a hearty welcome!

The first step is, **Invite!** It's really simple. Most of us try to use the same teller at the bank, or chat with the clerk at the store or the person carrying our purchases to our car, or our doctor or dentist. Take a minute and invite them to Holy Apostles. You might be amazed! Sometimes it seems that we only greet people entering the doors of Holy Apostles, but there is so much more going on behind the scenes that would surprise you!

Second, **Welcome.** Milton McGehee elaborated on welcoming guests. "As a greeter, I often say: 'I don't think we've met before, are you familiar with an Episcopal service? Or, 'Would you like me to sit with you?' or 'I'll be glad to show you to a seat.' Follow up with: 'Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation.' And, 'remember, the Men's Group Dinner is the first Monday night of the month, starting at 6 PM!' (Or, Girls' Night Out on Thursday evening...)

Then we **Connect.** One of the ways we do this is our new members brunch. This is a time for sharing good food and getting to know the new members and finding their interests for serving in one of our ministries.

If you see someone you haven't met or spoken to, introduce yourself and make them feel at home. With your help, our Holy Apostles family will continue to grow and share our love to all.



Greetings and salutations at Holy Apostles



Holy Apostles has the reputation of being one of the friendliest parishes in the Diocese. That is a great credit to all of our members. I have actually heard it said that we are a church full of “greeters”. While that is true to an extent, our official Greeters Ministry still needs you! It is very important for our visitors to be welcomed right when they walk in the door, but there is more to it than that. We also want to make sure that they all sign our guest book, receive a flyer explaining aspects of the Episcopal service (if they are not familiar with it), receive a welcome bag containing a loaf of homemade bread and our current newsletter, get pointed to the nursery, restrooms, and Christian Formation classes, etc. We currently have a very small group of parishioners acting in this capacity. If we had 5-6 more people participating, it would require serving only once a month or less.

You don't have to be an extrovert (although that helps.) Just be welcoming and friendly! You don't have to know everyone already. If it turns out that the “visitor” you speak to has actually already been at Holy Apostles for six months, that's okay. You've just made a new friend! That is just one of the side benefits of being a greeter. Another is that you get to know all the cool people who are greeters already! If you are interested in this important and fulfilling ministry, please contact me at sdunbar67@gmail.com or 205-807-7488. – Scott Dunbar

EYC attends Acolyte Training and Festival!

On May 16, six members of our youth, led by Deacon Holmes, attended the Acolyte Training and Festival at St. Andrews. In the morning they learned about the roles of people in the church and the roles of objects in the church. Next, they decided what ‘roles’ each youth would play in the afternoon service.

After a delicious lunch it was time to play ‘Acolyte Jeopardy’ and the winners were from Holy Apostles. Next, it was time for the service led by Bishop Marray. In the service each youth had a ‘role’ to play. At the service, Holy Apostles was given the Bishop's Bowl in honor of winning Acolyte Jeopardy. The youth—including Grace Gaddis, Abby Shipley, Ashley Frier, Chase Frier, Olivia Wang, and Emma Roach--had an awesome time and learned many new things!



“It was so exciting to have six of our acolytes attend the 2nd Annual Acolyte Training and Festival! These young people represented Holy Apostles beautifully, learned even more about their important role in serving the parish in worship, and were able to spend special time with Bishop Marray. On top of learning all about sticks, smoke and fire, they won the Acolyte Jeopardy! Game, bringing back the silver ‘Bishop's Bowl’ to display until the training event next year. We at Holy Apostles are abundantly blessed with youth who want to be actively involved in our worship and parish life,” said Deacon Marti. - Olivia Wang

VBS 2015 EVEREST!!

Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power!

Vacation Bible School at Holy Apostles is set for June 15-18 from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Kids will enjoy learning some great new music, watching funny skits, playing exciting games, creating cool crafts, eating yummy snacks, and best of all, learning about God's Awesome Power!

Please invite friends, neighbors, children and grandchildren (age 3 to 5th grade) to join us for an exciting adventure to Everest. Register online using the link on our church website. Registration is \$15 per child (\$30 max per family) and will include a VBS T-shirt.



Can't wait to see you all there!

New venue rains blessings on Gumbo Gala & Annual Crawfish Boil

April was the month for mudbugs, boils, and rain...no, not pestilence and plagues, but fundraisers! However, the showers didn't dampen spirits at the Tenth Anniversary Schaeffer Eye Center Gumbo Gala, a benefit for Episcopal Place. Despite the wet weather, 54 teams competed for the title of Birmingham's Best in both the professional and backyard divisions for gumbo as well as Chef's Choice, People's Choice and Spirit awards.



Holy Apostles placed first for Most Spirit and Three Hots and a Cot placed third in Spirit while Royal Cup took the Backyard Division for Best Gumbo and Spoon & Ladle won Best Gumbo Professional Division. One participant raved, "We thought this year's Gumbo Gala was the BEST, despite the rain! ... Regions Field turned out to be a great site and we hope you raised a lot of money for Episcopal Place!"



Episcopal Place's Executive Director, Tim Blanton, stated, "Thanks to record team participation ... Gumbo Gala 2015 [raised] over \$45,000..." . Proceeds provide services such as transportation, subsidized hot lunches, subsidized housekeeping for frail and sick residents, enrichment activities, health screenings, exercise and healthy living classes, pastoral care, and an emergency relief fund. These services are vital to healthy independent living for seniors and disabled adults on limited incomes.



Just a week later, on April 25th Holy Apostles hosted its 18th Annual Crawfish and Shrimp Boil with a hungry crowd, two bands providing live music all day, and a Bounce House for the kids. Parishioners, Episcopal Place residents, and neighborhood residents also attended the Boil which sold out of crawfish by 2 PM. The popularity of this event was reflected on HA's Facebook page which reached 795 people!

Finally, on May 2nd Holy Apostles' outreach continued on Celebrate Hoover! Day, where the Apostles with Fire changed the menu to beignets...serving over 400 beignets, along with coffee and water for the sunny day.



Property Guild gives HA a ‘facelift’

Our Property Guild ministry has been hard at work during 2014-15. Last fall, the church exterior was cleaned and painted, while the interior was cleaned, dusted, and polished in regular monthly work sessions. Spring cleaning included the ‘Korean boxwood’ project, cutting and trimming shrubbery and trees along with beautifying the driveway median and memory garden pathway as well as overall landscaping. Exterior lighting was added to the “church on the hill.” The Guild also created and furnished the multipurpose room.

New permanent wooden shelving was installed behind the altar in June and restocked with the supplies of the various ministries. Fifty hardworking members (and Board) of the Guild have also completed many other minor tasks. It is a privilege to care for our spiritual home.



A multipurpose room created at HA

A new room has created a space where the Episcopal Church Youth (and others) can gather in comfort and style.

During many weekends of work—designing, painting, and sewing—the Property Guild members contributed to this made-over room. Jeff Howell designed the bench with storage space and seating, made of poplar and hinges donated by a friend of Bill Davis. Trina Davis upholstered the benches and chairs, while Barbara McEntegart made pillows for the couches. Lynda Gilbert and Gina Howell shopped for paint, furniture, the rug, and lamps. Teresa McCombs framed the artwork. Members of the Property Guild painted the room on work days.

Meetings have already been held there and the room is also available for celebratory events; e.g., bridal parties or grieving families.



To submit an article please email
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The Holy Apostles Calendar can be found at:
<http://holypostles.dioala.org/calendar.html>



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Regular Worship Schedule (Sept. - May)

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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