



The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles



The Voice of the Holy Apostles

Fall 2018

Clergy

The Rev. Blake Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Worth Stuart
Curate

The Rev. Marti Holmes
Deacon

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

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A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

The other day, I was looking at a \$20 bill.* You know, money is a fascinating thing to look at. What that piece of paper represents probably occupies more of the thought and time and concern of most of us than any other single thing we know.

How to earn it, how to protect it from being stolen or wasted, what power we believe it gives us, what to spend it on, and that to which we will give it — these are all constant concerns every day. Each of us will deal with these matters in our own way, but on one thing we can agree — bury it in the ground, and it’s just a piece of paper. But use it, and it has overwhelming power.

Money can become almost anything we want it to become. It can put new furniture in our living room, provide food for our table, put clothes on our back, and buy season tickets for our favorite sports team.

It can also provide food for the hungry, and support ministries around Hoover and across our Diocese. It can be used to maintain a building where the Gospel is preached, the sacraments are celebrated, and where Christians gather to pray, to worship, and be of support and strength to each other in the faith. It can be used to provide education classes for all ages, fellowship groups, and hospitality. It can be used to provide staff that lead our choir and music, our teenagers/EYC ministry, and church office work. It can be used to provide Wednesday night classes and Sunday evening special events like Taizé service, Epiphany Party, Choir Concert, etc. It can take a minister to a hospital when you’re ill.

Or it can pay for a night on the town.

We seldom have enough money to do everything we want. So, setting priorities for its use is one of the most important things we do. That’s why Jesus talked about it so much. He knew that how we decide to spend our money is the basic key to what we really believe to be of value. That’s why Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

It’s Annual Response Season at Holy Apostles. During this season, we make a commitment to God, a good faith estimate of our giving over the next year. For us, this is a statement of our values. As people of faith, deciding what to put on that form is not a small decision.

— Blake

*Adapted from the Rt. Rev. John H. MacNaughton’s, *Meditation on A Ten Dollar Bill*. From his book: **More Blessed to Give**. Church Publishing, 2002.

A Message From Our Curate



In a recent gospel lesson (Mark 10:17-31), Jesus talked about how it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is one of

the more difficult metaphors with which we struggle. As I said in my sermon, this passage is about money, but it also isn't.

Perhaps knowing the background of the "Eye of the Needle" metaphor is helpful. What if I told you that the camel and "Eye of the Needle" is a metaphor, but it also isn't? In fact, the "Eye of the Needle" is a real thing.

If you go to the Old City of Jerusalem you can still see them today. During the day the large gates to the City of Jerusalem would be opened so that folks could enter and exit the city carrying things they needed for the day, likely on a packed camel. "After hours" though, the big gates would be closed and locked to protect from outside invaders, leaving only a much smaller gate called the "Eye of the Needle" opened for people who still needed to go in and out. The "Eye of the Needle" gates were small enough for people, but not large enough for fully packed camels. So, in order for camels to get through the smaller gate, one would have to remove everything that the camel was carrying, and even then, it would be difficult for the camel to get through the "Eye of the Needle".

The imagery then, becomes even more vivid! If we are carrying all of this "stuff" with us — stuff that isn't life-giving — and trying to follow Jesus, life of discipleship can be difficult. It's only when we can drop all of that "stuff" to which we cling so tightly, that we can live fully in the light of God's love and be full participants in the work of God in the world.

— *Peace,
Worth*

My Relationship with God and Money

This is my story about money and my relationship with God. I have been a long-time parishioner of Holy Apostles and over the years I have been involved in a variety of ministries. Of the many ministries I have been involved in (Altar, Flowers, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Parish Life, Stewardship, Bread, Daughters of the King, Vestry), I have chosen or been asked to participate because they either capitalize on my skills — organization and time management — or allow me to express my creative side, or feed my love of food or allow me quiet time in my busy life to pray.

I have always given money to Holy Apostles and I have always made a pledge to give every year. But it wasn't until I read the following 2 books — "Not Your Parents' Offering Plate" and "Whose Offering Plate Is It?" — that I really started to understand what making a pledge to give and fulfilling that pledge really means. Giving money to Holy Apostles is giving to God. It is one way that I give back to God for all He has given to me, the many blessings I have in my life because of Him. When I am preparing the altar or decorating flowers or offering the chalice or other gifts of my time I do all of these as an outpouring of my relationship with God and in response to His gifts. Giving of my time isn't an obligation, it isn't a requirement or a responsibility. So, when I write my check to Holy Apostles it isn't an obligation, it isn't to keep the utilities on, it is my response to all God has given me. God wants me, and he wants you, to grow and deepen our faith and our relationship with Him, to share His love and grace with others. Every time I give of my time and my money it is a part of my relationship with God and a response to all He has given me. Giving to God has changed me and I know my financial gifts have helped to change lives. When I think about all God has given me and all the lives we change through our ministries at Holy Apostles, I can't help but be generous with my gifts.

How about you? Why do you give to God? Are you a generous and cheerful giver? Do you give in response to all God has given you? Annual Response is now. Take the time to think and pray about your relationship with God and make a pledge to give to God in response to all He has given you!!



— *Thank you,
Cathy Newhouse*

Greetings and Happy Fall to Everyone!



As I write this, it seems the brutal summer heat is releasing its stranglehold and yielding to what is my favorite time of year. Cool evenings, warm days, and beautiful colors! Having just finished our summer at Holy Apostles, it is our time to change seasons as well. Thanks to all who helped our parish to run smoothly this summer while Blake was on sabbatical. Behind the scenes our clergy, Worth and Marti, and our staff “rolled up their sleeves” and made sure that everything kept going as planned. In the last weeks, your Vestry has been busy nominating new Vestry members, preparing for the Annual Meeting and making sure that our important Holiday Season is everything we expect at our loving home that we call Holy Apostles! Please continue joining us in prayer to find families and individuals who are seeking a new church home. As always, may the Love of God and Peace of the Lord surround you and your families. It is a pleasure to serve you as Senior Warden. Blessings to all!

— Mike Lewellen, Senior Warden
srwarden@holypostleshooover.org

Strategic Visioning Update

DISASTER RESPONSE INFORMATIONAL MEETING OCT. 29th

During our strategic vision sessions for the entire parish this was one of the five year goals to be accomplished. We will have an information session at Holy Apostles on Monday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us to learn more about the vision and how our parish can assist our neighbors in need when disaster strikes. For more information contact Fr. Blake, Mike Lewallen or Susan Jackson.

Introducing Our New Care Team

- Over the past several months, we
- have been working hard to develop
- an improved system for taking
- care of the pastoral care needs of
- our parish. This past month, we
- introduced to you the members of our
- parish’s Care And Support Team, also
- known as “CAST”. The CAST will
- be the liaisons between the clergy,
- who are notified about pastoral care
- needs of the parish, and the different
- pastoral care ministries that we offer
- (transportation, meals, visitors, etc.).
- This new system will allow us to
- better provide a coordinated approach
- to actively respond to the pastoral
- care needs of our parish. Speak with
- a CAST member to hear more about
- this exciting new ministry!

With the recent installation of the controlled access door to Holy Apostles, I am pleased to report that our building continues to be used more and more. There are several Holy Apostles groups using our facilities (Cursillo reunion groups, DOK, Men’s Group, Vestry, EfM, Wednesday night programs, ...) and we have begun hosting more outside groups (Girl Scouts, Charity League Board, Kairos, ...) within our building. Opening our facility has been an intentional focus of Holy Apostles, and this effort is rooted in the consistent congregational input the Vestry has received over the past few years. Please take pride sharing our resources with both internal and external groups.

Unfortunately, tragedies across the nation have forced schools and churches to prepare for emergency situations, and Holy Apostles is no different. In the unlikely event that something should happen, please know that we have created a ‘shelter in place’ behind the altar. While your first choice should almost always be to evacuate, this location should provide a safe location to shelter until authorities arrive. Both doors are equipped with deadbolt locks. Many thanks to the all groups who helped tidy up this space. It will be important to keep this area as clutter-free as possible.

As it has been some time since I have last written, we replaced our water heater over the summer. This unit was original to the building (15 years old), and one Sunday morning in July the unit began leaking. Fortunately, we were able to prevent any significant water damage, and the water heater has been replaced. On a similar note, I am actively working to replace all of the lights in the Nave. With any luck, replacement of all the bulbs will be complete before The Voice goes to press.

On Tuesday, November 13th Holy Apostles will host a CPR/AED training class from 6-8PM, with a dinner provided at 5:30. I would encourage anyone who is interested to participate in this class. However, please note that attendance will be limited, as we cannot exceed a specified teacher to pupil ratio. If interested, please RSVP with me at the e-mail address below.

With the additional time I have spent at Holy Apostles the last two years as Jr. Warden, I have come to appreciate the random pockets of beauty throughout our grounds. For example, a member of our congregation built the benches under the portico as an Eagle Scout Project. Similarly, there are many items in the Nave (the baptismal font, the lectern, even the altar itself!) were all crafted by members of Holy Apostles. I have even been told that if you could look beneath the drywall, you would find hundreds of messages on the studs written by Holy Apostles when the building was under construction. So...the next time you see something, ask someone if there is an interesting story behind it. You may be surprised by what you learn!



As always, please let me know of any thoughts you have (both negative and positive!) with the building and/or grounds. Many eyes pass through our building throughout the week, and the Property Team and I depend on your ideas and concerns to maintain our beautiful space!

— Patrick Schexnailder, Jr. Warden
jrwarden@holypostleshover.org



Bishop Kee Sloan November 11

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 11th as Bishop Sloan visits Holy Apostles. There’ll be a Bishop’s Forum at 9:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan will be our Celebrant and Preacher.

Press Release

October 17 at 9:49 AM

Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Wednesday, October 10, devastating areas of the Florida Panhandle and Georgia. The storm is responsible for at least 19 deaths in four states and destroyed homes and valuable infrastructure, particularly in Florida and Georgia. Over 140,000 Florida residents remained without power on Tuesday morning, while Albany, GA is as without potable water as of last contact. Episcopal Relief & Development is providing emergency assistance to individuals and families affected by the storm, including food, shelter, generators and other basic supplies, through partnerships with the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and the Episcopal Diocese of The Central Gulf Coast. Please continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Donations to the Hurricane Relief Fund: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief/>

Daughters of the King Update

The Fall Assembly Meeting of the Daughters of the King in the Diocese of Alabama was held on September 8, 2018 at St. Mary's on the Highlands Episcopal Church in Birmingham. The theme for the Assembly Meeting was "Be Still and Know That I Am God". An inspirational program was led by the Rev. Marge Doyle, DOK Diocesan Chaplain.

Over seventy DOK members from throughout the Diocese of Alabama attended this meeting. Members attending from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapter at Holy Apostles were Kathy Whatley, Diocesan President, Bertha Smith, Diocesan Secretary, Pat Davis, Beth Galloway, and Kathy Warren.

Sunday, October 21st

Our clergy will induct new Daughters to the Order of Elizabeth Ann Seton at the 10:30 AM service. DOK members wear blue and are seated together. The monthly meeting follows the service.

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 6:30 P.M.

WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

ALL SAINTS AND ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED AT OUR



MUSIC

SCRIPTURE

CANDLELIGHT

REMEMBRANCE



“Oh ... people will come, Ray. People will most definitely come.”

Terence Mann says this to Ray in the movie, *Field of Dreams*. That little movie clip is about faith — believing in something worthwhile, even when it seems unlikely it could come true.

That is a bit like I feel about Education for Ministry — **EfM**. I believe it is a worthwhile commitment, and one that brings folks in closer relationship to God and to other people. It allows people to grow in faith in an accepting environment that allows questioning and differences of opinion. We had a small, dedicated group of participants, and it seemed that the group would always be struggling to enroll enough folks to offer a class.



But, this fall, the people came — they most definitely came! In the EfM class held at Holy Apostles, we now have 12 people enrolled. This is the largest class size allowed in a single class by the EfM Program of the University of the South’s School of Theology’s Beeken Center!

So, what makes EfM so special? These comments are what some of the current participants have to say:

- 3rd Year participant, “*Growing in my faith alongside of other people, learning from God’s word and community.*”
- Rachael, a 1st Year participant, wrote, “*The genuine relationships I am building with the other participants & learning how to see how the Bible actually applies to my everyday life.*”
- “*I love all the different opinions & ideas expressed in such a loving Christian attitude. Beautiful Fellowship,*” said Marcia.
- Another 1st Year participant wrote, “*Safe environment to express thoughts, areas you wish to develop in and to learn that others have some of the same doubts, and confusions.*”
- Diane, a 1st Year participant explained, “*To me EfM provides an opportunity to seek a fuller understanding of God in our world and in my life in a community setting. The ability to share, question, and understand our spiritual life journey together is a special gift.*”

EfM is a program for the lay members of the Christian faith, and is a 4-year study of the Christian bible, traditions, history and each individual’s calling into God’s service. It is not designed to lead to ordination; rather it creates an environment for adult learners to grow in knowledge of God, about God, and of our relationships with one another. EfM is one way to grow in faith, love and understanding, and is open to those with the desire to do so. Because I trust in the quality of the program and the desire of people to learn more about their faith, I choose to make being an EfM mentor at Holy Apostles a commitment that I make to God’s ministry. We can add a second class next year, if there are more folks willing to come!



— *The Deacon Marti Holmes*

Rise

AGAINST HUNGER



On Saturday, August 18, twenty-two from Holy Apostles joined with members from St. Francis of Assisi (Indian Springs), Holy Spirit (Alabaster), and St. Catherine's (Chelsea) for a morning of food packing! Rise Against Hunger is an organization whose goal is to end world hunger by 2030. Our team helped package 10,152 bags which will go to feed around 60,000 people. What an incredible impact made by the people of Holy Apostles.



For more information on Rise Against Hunger, visit their Website: www.riseagainsthunger.org.

Be on the lookout for future Rise Against Hunger events!





Mark Your Calendar!

Gifts for St. Nicholas is almost here.

This year gifts from St. Nicholas are needed for more than 70 children!

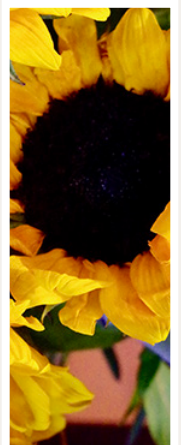
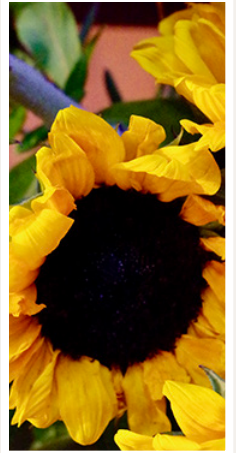
Purchase a paper ornament. Place on the St. Nicholas tree to provide sneakers, socks and some smaller items for our kids at Trace Crossings Elementary School.

This is a cash collection event. Approximately \$40.00 per child is necessary to make our goal.

Fifteen ladies from Holy Apostles' *Taste and See Group* attended The Red Mountain Theatre's production of *Mamma Mia!* in late July. Lunch was at Oscar's at the Birmingham Art Museum before the play. The group meets for lunch and other events at noon about once a month.

For more information, contact pdavis2622@charter.net.





Calendar of Events

Weekly

Sundays	Holy Eucharist II (w/Nursery)	8:30am
	Christian Education (all ages)	9:30am
	Choir Warm-up	9:30am
	Holy Eucharist II (w/Choir & Nursery)	10:30am
	Cursillo - Floating Reunion Group	11:45am
Mondays	Cursillo Reunion	5:30pm
Tuesdays	Bible Study with Deacon Marti	10:30am
	Cursillo Reunion	5:30pm
Wednesdays	Cursillo Reunion	3:00pm
2 nd /4 th Thurs	Cursillo Reunion	6:30pm

Monthly

Men's Group Dinner	1 st Mondays	6:00pm
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Mondays	6:00pm
Daughters of the King	5 th Sundays	12:00pm
Tapister's - Hoover Library	2 nd Saturdays	10:00am
Property Team Meeting	Last Mondays	5:00pm
Healing Service	5 th Sundays	11:30am

Upcoming Events

10.17.18	Wednesday Night Series
10.21.18	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost
	Daughters of the King Induction (10:30am)
	Daughters of the King meeting (11:30am)
10.24.18	Wednesday Night Series
10.28.18	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost
	Annual Meeting (11:30am)
	Trunk or Treat & Chilli Cook-off (4:00pm)
10.29.18	Disaster Relief Team Info Meeting (6:30pm)

11.4.18	All Saints Sunday (Daylight Savings Time ends)
	All Saints Taize Service (6:30pm)
11.11.18	25 th Sunday after Pentecost (Bishop's Visit)
	Bishop's Forum
	Confirmation at 10:30 service
11.12.18	Veteran's Day
11.18.18	26 th Sunday after Pentecost
11.22.18	Thanksgiving Day
11.25.18	Last Sunday after Pentecost - Christ the King Sunday
12.2.18	1 st Sunday of Advent
	New Members Brunch (11:30am)
12.5.18	Wednesday Night Series
12.9.18	2 nd Sunday of Advent
12.12.18	Wednesday Night Series
12.16.18	3 rd Sunday of Advent
12.19.18	Wednesday Night Series
12.23.18	4 th Sunday of Advent
12.24.18	Christmas Eve
	Children's Pageant Practice (3:00pm)
	Children's Pageant (4:00pm)
	Candles Lit, Music begins (7:00pm)
	Festival Eucharist (7:30pm)
12.25.18	Holy Eucharist with Carols (church & office closed except for service)
12.26.18	Office Closed
12.27.18	Office Closed
12.30.18	Lessons and Carols (10:30am)
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



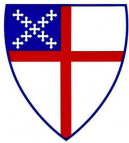


The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles

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www.holyapostleshooover.org



For more information
about Holy Apostles,
contact our Rector at
bhutson@holypostleshooover.org
or the church secretary at
kmcadams@holypostleshooover.org

Worship Schedule:

8:30 am Holy Eucharist
with nursery
9:30 am Christian Formation
with nursery
9:30 am Adult Choir warm-up
10:30 Holy Eucharist
with choir and nursery
11:30 am Coffee Hour
(fellowship following service)