

Spring 2019

Clergy

The Rev. Blake Hutson *Rector*

The Rev. Worth Stuart *Curate*

The Rev. Marti Holmes *Deacon*

Jose Fernandez Seminarian

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

Senior Warden Emily Bennett srwarden@holyapostleshoover.org

Junior Warden Charles McCormack jrwarden@holyapostleshoover.org

Lisa Bridgman

Drew Dahlgren

Diane Eggert

Richard Eppes

Lauren Havard

David Mize

Cathy Newhouse

Clerk Stacia Sebura

Treasurer
Betsy Whitfield

A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

This month we say good-bye to our Curate, Worth Stuart. As you know, Worth is a great guy — a fine pastor, preacher, priest and friend. For the last two years, we've been blessed by his sense of humor, enthusiasm for ministry, and love for Jesus and his Church.

We've been very fortunate to have a Curate position at Holy Apostles. The position is funded in part through a two-year agreement with the Diocese of Alabama. The goal of our Curate program is to have an additional priest at Holy Apostles

(which we need!), and give new graduates experience and training in ministry. Raise them up so they are ready to serve the larger church as a Rector, Priest in Charge, or Associate at a large parish.

Worth has held this position for almost two years so he's ready to serve the larger church and diocese. Worth has been called as an Associate at Church of the Nativity in Huntsville. His last Sunday at Holy Apostles will be April 28th. If you haven't already, please be sure and congratulate him and wish him well when you see him.

Worth will be missed. The good news is that our community has done its job. We've provided an environment of learning and growth so that he could become the priest that God has called him to be. Worth will no doubt continue to grow in the years ahead, and we have provided a foundation on which he can build his career in the church and calling in ministry.

Thank you for your help — for providing a place of learning and growth, for being a parish that serves our Diocese, and helps to form the clergy that will lead our Church in the future

We hope you can join us on Sunday, April 28th for a special reception at 11:30 to celebrate Worth's ministry at Holy Apostles. Worth has a bright future ahead. And so do we at Holy Apostles!

Warm regards, *Blake*

A Message From Our Curate



t is hard to believe that it's already been two years. It is hard to believe that I've been with all of you here for that long. And it is hard to believe that at the end of April my time here at Holy Apostles will

come to and end. What a two years it has been! I have baptized your children, officiated your loved ones' funerals, visited you in the hospital, and led you through Blake's sabbatical summer. The things I have learned here have been and will continue to be absolutely invaluable!

It's difficult to put into words the gratitude that I feel for this place and the people who call it home. Holy Apostles is filled with people who care deeply about one another and the community that surrounds it. I hope you recognize the Spirit at work within you. You are a true gift to Hoover, to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, and have been a gift to me.

Please know that though I am leaving this place, I take with me the things that I've learned here and the love that has been shared with me here. You all will be in my prayers and I hope that you will keep me in yours!

Thanks and Peace, *Worth*

Are You & Your Family Ready? Holy Apostles Disaster Response

ne of the goals from the Strategic Vision meetings was to find ways to provide assistance when disasters occur. Holy Apostles Disaster Response Team was created to make this goal a reality. This group is investigating and putting together broader plans.

The Disaster Response Team wants to provide members of Holy Apostles with resources in case of need. For example, what if a tornado touches down in your community — do you have important papers, information and an ACTION plan for your family?

Below are links to agencies that will assist you and your family in preparing for possible disasters.

• American Red Cross Family Emergency Plan

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness

Disaster Recovery/General Preparedness Recovery/Home/New-ARC

Family Disaster Plan Template r083012.pdf

- Alabama Emergency Management Agency (County Specific) https://ema.alabama.gov/preparedness/
- FEMA Family Emergency Communication Plan
 There is even an educational, fun opportunity for kids to get involved.
 https://kids.ema.alabama.gov

Download the free **Realm Connect** app — this will give access to contacts at Holy Apostles including clergy and members.

 $\underline{https://www.acstechnologies.com/products/realm/features/connect-mobile-app}$

Take the time now to look over these resources and begin making your plan and preparation. Hopefully, it will never be needed. But if something happens, you will be ready.



NEWCOMERS BRUNCH: The Holy Apostles New Members Brunch was held on Sunday, December 2 after the 10:30 Service. New members present were Larry and Carolyn Lee, Kathy Warren, Donna Elling, Phillip & Alice Crunk, Gerhard and Betsy Raschke & family, and Ray and Merrily Newton. Our Deacon, Marti Holmes, spoke to the group about church ministries after they enjoyed a delicious brunch. Brunch Committee members are Vanessa Hoggatt, Marcia Bakane, and Milton McGehee. Bill & Pat Davis also attended.

Meet the New Vestry Persons







Diane Eggert



Lauren Havard



Drew Dahlgren



David Mize

Richard Eppes and wife Laura have called Holy Apostles home since 2010— along with their three children, Carter, Samantha Paige, and Emerson. Carter and Richard were baptized together in January of 2011 and later confirmed at Holy Apostles. Richard is one of the leaders of the Apostles with Fire cooking team and Laura leads Vacation Bible School and Parish Life. Richard is the Director of Technology for a medical imaging company that allows him the luxury of working from home. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family. He is "very grateful... for allowing me to serve the church in this manner."

Diane Eggert joined Holy Apostles after visiting many churches in the Birmingham area. "The warm welcome I received here convinced me that this would be the perfect church home." Diane was born and raised in Cleveland, OH, but lived in many other locations including ND, NY, and in Scotland. Her degree is in Accounting and Business Management from the University of Maryland. She and her husband, Paul, lived and worked in the Washington, D.C., area for 30 years while raising two children. After retiring, they moved to this area to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Diane lost Paul to pancreatic cancer in 2014, and is a member of the "Next Chapter" group where members support each other through loss. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, helps coordinate meal delivery for the CAST team, is a Daughter of the King, and works on the Hospitality committee. She attends Tuesday morning Bible study and is enrolled in EfM. "I am honored to work on the Vestry... allowing me to serve my church."

Lauren Havard was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, attended Sewanee for college where she majored in Natural Resources and minored in Religion—and "more importantly, it's where I met John Ross." They married in 2006, and then Lauren immediately worked for her Master's degree in Landscape Architecture at Auburn University. After graduation, they made Hoover their home and looked for a new church. "Holy Apostles was the first and only church we visited,"

she said. "We immediately felt at home." Lauren and John Ross have a son, John Asher and a daughter, Hayes. Currently, Lauren works for the City of Birmingham as an Urban Designer and Landscape Architect. Since we joining Holy Apostles in 2009, Lauren has taught high school Sunday School class, kept the Nursery, and helped with VBS. She serves HA as the Nursery Coordinator, helps teach Children's Chapel, and is a member of DOK.

Andrew "Drew" Dahlgren was born in Warren, PA, and raised south of Buffalo in Frewsburg, New York. He met his wife, Katrina, at university and work granted them the opportunity to move to Birmingham. Holy Apostles was the first church attended during their search for a church home. "Seven years, a wedding and a baby later, it remains our church home," said Drew. Drew and Katrina serve as ushers, educators, and worked in the auction ministry. "Like so many others, he said, "We have found a home where we feel blessed to be a part of the community. I look forward to serving and being part of this chapter of Holy Apostles' journey."

David Mize, who is currently serving out a one-year term on the Vestry, is a founding member of the parish. He has previous experience as a vestry member, including serving as Junior Warden. He has also done a "little bit of everything at one time or another at Holy Apostles." Married to Jan, they have two children, Jackson (11) and Julianna (9). He is an Auburn graduate, with a graduate degree from Samford, and is a manager for US Pipe in Bessemer. As a cradle Episcopalian, Dave has been active in many Diocesan level ministries including Cursillo and Happening. At Holy Apostles, he is involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Hi everyone! First, I feel blessed and honored to serve as your Senior Warden for 2019. I pray that I can serve our parish and each of you well.

The Vestry kicked off the year in January with our Vestry Retreat. We enjoyed some fellowship and got a lot accomplished. Fortunately, we were able to pass a balanced, healthy budget for 2019. In the budget for 2019 we were able to include funding for a Curate for the 2nd half of 2019 with the intention of also being able to fund the Curate program into 2020. In the past the Diocese of Alabama has covered majority of the expenses for the Curate program. Beginning in 2019 we are required to cover 50% of the expenses for the Curate. Having the funds to be able to do so is a huge step towards our Parish goal of being able to fully fund an Associate Priest in the future. Thank you for your generosity and support of Holy Apostles that allows us to be able move forward in meeting these goals we all set together!



Another big goal the parish set during our Strategic Visioning in 2017 was opening a "parent's day out" program of some sort. We all saw this program as an outreach opportunity in our community and a way to help us meet other goals by bringing in additional income. The Vestry has given the Strategic Visioning team the green light to begin very preliminary exploration on the possibility of opening an Infant Center at Holy Apostles. We have done the homework to determine this type of program is greatly needed in our area. We have also determined what equipment and staff would be needed. At this time, we're in the very early stages of determining what costs we would incur in opening a program such as this as well as the liability. More updates on this coming soon!

Finally, I think I speak for each of you when I say we have been extremely blessed by having had The Rev. Worth Stuart as a part of our Holy Apostles family for the last two years. He has had a tremendous impact on this parish, and we are so thankful to have been a part of his journey into priesthood. I know Church of the Nativity in Huntsville will be just as blessed as we have been. You will be missed immensely, Worth!

I hope each of you have a blessed Easter season. Thank you all for your dedication to and love of Holy Apostles!

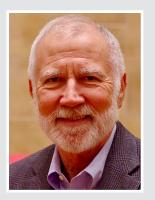
— Emily Bennett, Senior Warden srwarden@holyapostleshoover.org

A Report from our Junior Warden

The first quarter of 2019 was a good season for Holy Apostles. Many projects completed in 2018 have left Holy Apostles in great shape for the future. The Nave has a new HVAC system. The old water heater has been replaced. An electronically-controlled front door lock was installed to make building access much easier and more convenient to control. All of the Nave lighting has been replaced.

Throughout the coming year please let me, or a Property Team member, know about anything that may need attention. The 2019 Property Team members are Beth Arnold, Jeff Howell, and Lynn Mills. We will very much appreciate your input on maintaining our beautiful church.

On Saturday, April 6, a parish workday was held. The workday offered everyone a chance to help care for our church home. We performed an overall cleaning inside and outside the church.



— Charles McCormack, Jr. Warden jrwarden@holyapostleshoover.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 14 Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. HE I w/Blessing of Palms and Nursery Care

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:30 a.m. HE II w/Choir and Nursery Care;

Blessing of Palms & Liturgy of the Passion

April 18 Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Foot Washing and HE II

April 19 Good Friday

Noon "The Seven Last Words of Christ" a service of prayers,

silent meditation and scripture readings

6:00 p.m. "The Seven Last Words of Christ" a service of prayers,

silent meditation and scripture readings, Communion from

Reserved Sacrament

April 20 Holy Saturday

7:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Service — New Fire,

Process from Parking Lot

April 21 Easter Day (Food and Fellowship after each service)

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Eucharist (outdoors, weather permitting)

8:30 a.m. HE II with Child Care

10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist

With Easter Egg Hunt Following Service



Jose Fernandez is an intern at Holy Apostles who is in the second year at the Alabama Integrative Ministry School (AIMS), our local diocesan seminary program training bi-vocational deacons and priests. The AIMS second year internship experience focuses on the development of the pastoral identity of their students, and there is no better place for that than at Holy Apostles!

Jose grew up in a small town in Puerto Rico and left there to teach (for six years) at South Bronx High School in 1988. While there, he earned his Master's degree at Columbia University's Teachers College. Moving on to Pennsylvania, he earned a PhD in Biobehavioral Health in 1999 at Penn State. But it was his subsequent training in the genetics of obesity that brought him to UAB's Department of Nutrition Sciences in 2001. He is a professor and Vice-Chair for Education.

Jose's religious background is unique — raised Catholic and influenced by his mother's beliefs in Afro-Caribbean spirituality, he also attended a Baptist Church that "influenced my spirituality during my adolescence and young adulthood." He became an

Episcopalian in 2001 "when a priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC offered Kevin (who as a member of that congregation) to bless our relationship... it was the first same sex blessing in the history of that church. I did not understand why this priest was willing to do that, or why this was happening to me. During a conversation, the priest told me that God was reminding me of my identify as the son of The King that transformed my life and defined my own theology."

During Education for Ministry (EfM) studies, Jose was called to the ministry. He graduated EfM in 2007, served as an active EfM mentor until 2018, and became a trainer of mentors in 2017. He maintains his status as a EfM Trainer by training at least three times per year.

"The community of Holy Apostles manifests the love of Christ through their gifts of inclusiveness, love, and hospitality. Walking into HA makes people feel at home; sharing the peace makes people feel loved and validated. It is a gift that this congregation shares with those who come through our doors, and that exemplifies our commitment to be servants of the Lord."

Holy Apostles Lunch Outreach (also called HALO)

We invite you to join a small group of us from Holy Apostles a few Sundays per year as we prepare and serve meals at Grace in Woodlawn. In 2019, we will serve Sundays on February 17, May 19, August 18 and November 17.

We need 5-7 people from 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to continue this successful ministry.

We worship at the 8:30 service at Holy Apostles, then meet at the community kitchen of Birmingham Grace Church in Woodlawn at 10:45 am. We bring items and prepare food for 75 to 100 guests. We serve between 12:45 and 1:15 p.m. and then clean up. We have a different leader each month that will provide support and information. No experience is required, but you will need an open heart and an interest in serving. If you would like to join us one of these dates or if you have any questions, please contact Dee at dtnance23@gmail.com or 205-383-5141.

Apostles with Fire will be participating in:



May 4 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sloss Furnaces Admission: \$15

Gumbo Gala is the annual fundraiser for Episcopal Place, which is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable independent living for low income seniors as well as adults with disabilities.



Celebrate Hoover Day • Saturday, April 27, 2019
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. • Veterans Park on Valleydale
Parking at Spain Park High School
Complimentary shuttles

Holy Apostles is home to one of the largest Daughters of The King (DOK) chapters in the Diocese.

The Spring Assembly Meeting of the Order of the Daughters of the King in the Diocese of Alabama was held on March 23, 2019 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham. More than ninety women from throughout the Diocese were in attendance. The Reverend Mary Bea Sullivan presented the program that was based on her book *Living the Way of Love*. Bishop Kee Sloan was the celebrant for the Eucharist.

The Order of the Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. After a period of instruction and discernment, a candidate may (or may not) choose to become a Daughter. When one becomes a Daughter, two rules are followed: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. A Daughter promises to support the clergy; wear the cross of The Order; and work for the purposes of The Order as opportunity offers. Dues are paid annually.



Induction of the 2018 members surrounded by Daughters of Holy Apostles

The Fall Assembly Meeting for the DOK in the Diocese of Alabama will be held on September 14, 2019, at Holy Apostles.

If you are interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King, please talk with Jane Mantooth or Kathy Whatley.

Report on Parish Retreat

Holy Apostles gathered at Camp McDowell from Feb. 22-24 for the annual Parish Retreat.

While the number of participants was smaller than past years, all attendees enjoyed the experiences offered by Camp McDowell — whether it was hiking, crossing the suspension bridge, visiting the farm (and petting the goats and rabbits), visiting the Camp store to stock up on McDowell T-shirts, or just sitting in front of the fire and enjoying each other's company. The Parish Retreat is a great time for members of the Parish to get to know each other better and for intergenerational bonding. It was delightful to watch one of our more seasoned parishioners teach some of the younger children how to safely tend the fire! We had several knitters in the group and they had the opportunity to compare notes and share tips with each other. Some of us took a quiet walk; with the abundant recent rains, the McDowell landscape was transformed with streams and waterfalls all over the grounds. The highlight of the weekend was having our Curate, Worth Stuart, bring Eucharist in to Stough Lodge because



potential storms made it difficult to get to the chapel. Worth celebrated the Eucharist in front of the fireplace in a very intimate setting. The Retreat Committee is reviewing the annual retreat format and the possibility of rotating between years a single day event closer to Birmingham and the weekend Camp McDowell experience. If you have thoughts on the subject, please feel free to Marjee Frier at 205-439-2820 or mfrier@hoover.k12.al.us.

Report on Supper Clubs

Supper clubs are in full swing by now! All Holy Apostles parishioners who signed up to join a supper club should have been notified of their assignment a new group this year. The Supper Clubs are another way that members of the Holy Apostles community get to know each other in a small group, relaxed setting. Remember that supper clubs do not necessarily have to be a dinner at someone's home. Supper clubs can elect to meet at a restaurant or alternative venues — whatever meets the needs of the group. Assigned supper clubs will continue to meet each month through December 2019. Early in the year, new clubs will be formed. If you were not able to sign up for the Supper Clubs during the annual Parish Ministry Fair, please contact Laura Eppes on 256-337-4606 and she will assign you to a group!

What is Stopping You?

had returned to working in private practice — back where I began before I accepted a faculty position at a major university school of dentistry. After 2 years on the faculty, I was unsure whether this was the direction I wanted to take. After all, I would need at least one additional degree to continue in academics for the long haul. I needed some time to evaluate my options. School is costly — in time and money.

A young man came in for his regular appointment, and our conversation turned to his dreams for the future. He had graduated from college a year or so previously, and really wanted to go to law school. He was debating whether he should apply this year. I said to him, "If you really want to do it, then go ahead and apply. There is nothing stopping you." He seemed uplifted, and when his treatment was completed, he went on his way.

As I prepared my instruments for sterilization, I looked at myself in the mirror above the sink, and repeated my own words to myself, "If you really want to do it, then go ahead and apply. There is nothing stopping you." At that moment, I realized that only my fear and self-doubt were standing in my way, so I made my way to the phone. When the director of the graduate program answered, I asked whether I had time to apply for the coming year, and she said, "Marti, get your application in by Monday at noon, and I will have grant money for you for the program." Just like that — no questions asked, no hoops to jump through — nothing stopping me but myself. Less than 2 months later, I was a full time graduate student with funding for school and living expenses. Wow! What a moment of grace! All that was required from me was to accept it!

The criminal on the cross next to Jesus just said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He had admitted to the other criminal his

reverence for God, that he deserved his punishment, and, that Jesus was an innocent man. He just wanted to be remembered by the man on that cross beside his.

But, Jesus replied to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." In this moment, he reveals to the criminal, by using the word "paradise", that he truly is a King. And, a King that had the power to bring him to safety.

The criminal didn't have to make a confession.

There were no required classes for him to take.

No special ceremony or rite. He did not have to promise to amend life — what was left of it. Nothing was required of him except to turn to this man, Jesus, and trust. In that very day, he would be liberated!

Wow! What a moment — an eternity — of grace!

God offers this grace to every part of his creation continually, consistently, and without requiring anything from us. The wind blows where it blows.

The rain falls on the good and the evil. Grace is everywhere — we just have to turn toward it, and recognize it for what it really is: the love that is God. This Easter Season, and at all times, may you see the grace that God pours upon you, and be grateful. Happy Easter!



— Deacon Marti Holmes

A Musical Setting for Holy Eucharist

Ite II from the Book of Common Prayer has been set to contemporary music by local Birmingham composers, Jacqueline Dicie and Fred Pollman. Derek Kluz, the HA choir, and special guest musicians premiered the service March 3rd at Holy Apostles within the context of the hour-long service of Holy Eucharist. Both composers took part.

Rite II began with the ancient Kyrie Eleison, transitioning to a Gloria with a driving piano accompaniment in F major. A Gospel Alleluia sequence, reprising thematic elements of the Gloria followed, and a jazz-infused Sanctus and Mystery of Faith, with settings of Christ Has Died, the Great Amen, and Alleluia, Christ our Passover, concluded with a gentle, lyrical Lamb of God, reprising lyrical sentiments of the Kyrie.

The clearly written but harmonically ambitious choral parts of the Mass of the Holy Apostles poses a level of challenge for an average choir in this diocese where the musical tradition is rich and choirs tend to be equipped with talented voices. A musical setting used every week must be sufficiently complex to maintain the interest of clergy, people, and choir over time. This setting would serve a congregation and choir well, especially in parishes offering afternoon contemporary services for devotees of the Cursillo movement.

The Mass of the Holy Apostles is offered as a gift to the Diocese, and choral copies of the music are offered to interested parishes through the Church of the Holy Apostles in Hoover. The conductor's full score and the piano/obligato score are available from the composers for a fee, which includes performance and photocopying rights for your parish for a period of five years. Information and support is available from Derek Kluz, Director of Music at Holy Apostles parish.



Composers, Jacqueline Dicie and Fred Pollman



























Calendar of Events

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	4 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

4.3.19	Wednesday Night Series	
4.6.19		
4.7.19	Spring Work Day (8:00am-12:00pm) Lent 5	
4.7.19		
4.40.40	EYC Lunch (11:30am)	
4.10.19	Wednesday Night Series	
4.14.19	Palm Sunday (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL all ages)	
4.15.19	Vestry Meeting (6:00pm)	
4.16.19	Holy Apostles Holy Spirits (6:00pm at <i>The Boot</i>)	
4.18.19	Maundy Thursday, Foot-washing and HE II	
	(6:00pm)	
4.19.19	Good Friday	
	12:00pm "The Seven Last Words of Christ"	
	6:00pm "The Seven Last Words of Christ"	
4.20.19	Easter Vigil (7:15pm)	
4.21.19	Easter Day	
	6:30am Sunrise Eucharist Service	
	10:30am Festival Eucharist, Easter Egg Hunt	
	following service	
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL all ages	
4.22.19-4.23.19	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
4.27.19	Celebrate Hoover Day, Veteran's Park	
4.28.19	2 nd Sunday of Easter	
	Worth's last Sunday	
	11:30am ReceptionWorth's Ministry Celebration	
5.1.19-5.3.19	Clergy and Spouse Retreat at Camp McDowell	
5.4.19	Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala at Sloss Furnace	
5.5.19	3 rd Sunday of Easter	
5.12.19	4 th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)	
5.13.19	Vestry Meeting (6:00pm)	
5.18.19	Crawfish Boil at Holy Apostles	
5.19.19	5 th Sunday of Easter	
	Graduate Recognition Sunday	
	Last Day of Sunday School	
	11:30am Reception for Graduates	
5.26.19	6 th Sunday of Easter	
5.27.19	Memorial Day Holiday	
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424 Emery Drive Hoover, Alabama 35244

205-988-8000

 $\underline{www.holyapostleshoover.org}$



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