

Summer 2019

Clergy

The Rev. Blake Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Marti Holmes
Deacon

Jose Fernandez
Seminarian

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

Senior Warden
Emily Bennett
srwarden@holypostleshoover.org

Junior Warden
Charles McCormack
jrwarden@holypostleshoover.org

Lisa Bridgman

Drew Dahlgren

Diane Eggert

Richard Eppes

Lauren Havard

David Mize

Cathy Newhouse

Clerk
Stacia Seburia

Treasurer
Betsy Whitfield

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)

The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles

The Voice of the Holy Apostles

A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

I'm excited about a new ministry opportunity at Holy Apostles. We began a conversation with our entire parish back in 2017 as part of our Strategic Visioning process. We were asked to dream big about our future as a parish and on possible ways that we can continue to serve our community. We talked about ways we can open our doors, be responsive, and serve our community. We have continued to have discussions on ways that we can be better stewards of our building and our unused space during the week, Monday through Friday.

As you may know, there are more than 1200 new homes being built over the next few years in Trace Crossings. That's a lot of new neighbors and new families coming our way! Coming out of our Visioning Sessions in 2017, our parish identified seven parish goals. Throughout 2018 and early 2019, we've had a working group making progress on each of these goals. One of our goals was about childcare.

The working group learned that childcare, especially childcare for newborns, is a need in our Trace Crossings community — that was even before all the new homes being built! As children get older, there are more options but fewer options for parents of newborns.

The needs for infants are different than toddler age children (space needs, playground equipment, etc.). In their research, they also learned that with our current building we could start this kind of ministry with minimal up-front costs, compared with starting a Preschool or Mother's Day Out program for Preschool age children. With some upgrades and small improvements, our current Nursery space would be a great spot for this ministry.

This summer, our Vestry discussed and voted to move forward with establishing an Infant Care Ministry at Holy Apostles. It will be a small program — a maximum of 8 "Little Apostles" and be open Monday through Friday during work hours. A Director and a few staff members will be hired to oversee the program.

The goal will be for the Infant Care ministry to blend into the current activities and ministries of the parish and not interfere with our day-to-day ministries, activities, and church functions. Parishioners' children will still use the same nursery space on Sunday mornings, and our youngest apostles will benefit from upgrades and improvements to their Sunday morning nursery experience.

In addition to getting new people through our doors, and serving our neighbors in a new way, we expect the Infant Care ministry to make a profit and bring in additional revenue for the parish.

All of this makes me excited about this new possibility. From our Strategic Visioning Sessions back in 2017, I believe God has been leading us through this whole process. We'll keep you posted on new developments. Please keep our parish in your daily prayers. May God continue to lead and guide us into the future!

Warm regards,
Blake

■ August 18

Ministry Fair, Blessing of the Backpacks and Back to School Cookout hosted by Parish Life

■ September 8

Christian Education Begins, 9:00 am

■ September 14

DOK Fall Assembly at Holy Apostles

■ September 25

Diocesan Deacons Informational Meeting, Holy Apostles, 6:00 pm

■ October 5

Church Picnic, Oak Mountain State Park

■ October 6

Camp Day at Holy Apostles, Special Guests & Animal Show at 9:30 and 11:30, Blessing of the Animals, 5:00 pm

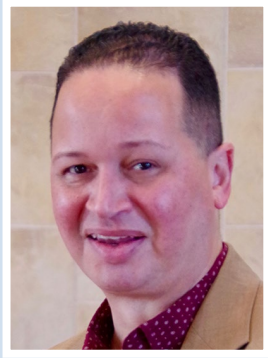
Sunday School Enriches Worship

Sunday School isn't just for kids anymore! At Holy Apostles, adults can enjoy an advanced level of instruction from our clergy and guest speakers (often via television) on topics as diverse as the Church Seasons to Heresies, and even discussed terms such as Evangelism, homoousios, the Trinity, etc.

Take Lent for example ... an Old English word refers to the lengthening days as we journey toward Spring and Easter, a period of 40 days that was first observed in the fourth century. That's 1500 years! Learn to count the days — start with Ash Wednesday to the first Sunday of Holy Week (not counting Sundays) — that are 40 days. That leads to a discussion of the number 40 in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness; Noah's flood lasted 40 days and nights; Moses fasted 40 days; Elijah received guidance after 40 days in the wilderness (and he was there more than once); Jesus fasted 40 days before the Temptation; and the first three kings of Israel each had reigns of 40 years — that's Saul, David, and Solomon. We learned about observing Lent in terms of what we do not do (no alleluias or flowers); no weddings or baptisms during Lent; altar furnishings are very basic; and the color is purple. All of this instruction culminated in a study of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday (did you know we don't repeat the Nicene Creed or Confession on Palm Sunday and why?) Each day in Holy Week, something was happening with Jesus and the Romans as 200,000 Jewish men and families converged on Jerusalem from the East at the same time as Roman soldiers arrived from the West. Contrast Jesus arriving on a donkey with the Roman army's entrance on chariots with weapons — a showdown was coming!

Bishop Michael Curry spoke to us on *How to Be A Crazy Christian*, explaining we should be the image of God to other people. Acting 'crazy' is to go against secular culture, environment, and belief systems: do what you think is right! The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, instructed on *Getting More Out of the Bible*. He advised getting to know your way around the Bible (39 OT books and 27 New Testament chapters); realizing what the Bible is — a library, not a book — a collection of history, stories, poetry, census, laws — all inspired by God; and we need to be ready to be transformed by allowing ourselves to be changed. Along this line, studies in Education for Ministry (EfM) were enhanced by adult education and aided in retaining and understanding of several Bible books and readings.

Just before the summer break, we explored three different heresies — Arianism, Adoptionism, and Docetism. Questioning these beliefs, understanding why they developed (as well as other churches such as the Coptic or Eastern Orthodox), and how the beliefs were resolved in church councils affected the way we worship today. Overall, Fr. Blake said it best — we study the Bible and attend adult Sunday formation “so we can know who God is.”



Christianity’s DNA Defines Us As a Community

Do you know that more than 26 million people have taken an at-home ancestry DNA test? I find it revolutionary the way in which people have embraced knowing about their ancestry.

Why do you think people are so interested in knowing about their ancestral backgrounds? I think it is because people want to establish relationships with others that share similar ancestors. It seems that embedded into our own curiosity, we want to hear the stories of where we come from and how we got to where we are!

As Christians we all share a common ancestry. However, the Bible does not tell us the entire story as it mostly covers the first 100 years of Christianity. Have you ever wondered what happened after Paul? Or what historical events define who we are as a Christian community? These events certainly defined who we are today as a Christian community!

Our next Adult Christian Education will start the Sunday after Labor Day and will explore the first 300 years of Christianity, the years that shaped the identity of our beliefs. It will be an opportunity for us to explore our history and to get insight into our spiritual ancestry. Come and join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM, starting in September!

Men’s Club Update

Men’s group feeds souls

On the first Monday of each month, our Holy Apostles Men’s Group gathers for dinner at 6:00 pm for fellowship and food. We might fry fish or one of our **Pop-up Chefs** will host us with a fine meal. Brian Coffee is noted for lasagna. Sam Morris Jr. brings his pizza-making skills. Jeff Howell is noted for delivery of Gina’s dishes. Allen Joseph can fry Hush Puppies and fish with the best of them. Margaret Morris let Sam Sr. deliver her cooking, too.

We are children friendly with a strong presence of boys supplied by Patrick and Sam Jr. We are self-funded by faithful souls.

The best part is enjoying the fellowship — welcoming all men of the church and their guests!



Danny Endress fried fish for Men’s Club dinner.



Bertha Smith and Kathy Whatley serve on the Altar Guild.

Don’t Forget to Sign Up!

Ministry Fair Sunday, August 18

Please join us for the annual Ministry Fair to be held on Sunday, August 18th following the 10:30 service. This time of fellowship is also a fabulous opportunity to inquire about the many opportunities to serve and become involved with Holy Apostles and other ministries that might interest you. A list of each ministry and a description of its purpose will be available as well. This is a wonderful time to seek and share your service with others.

The Shape Your Shape Is In

Everywhere we turn, we see and hear how to better care for our shape. We seem to be obsessed with our shape — our form. No one passes by a mirror without checking themselves out!

We are bombarded with, and try to follow, advice about our food choices — should we do organic, paleo, ketogenic, Mediterranean, Whole30, or Weight Watchers? And then, there is advice on the best exercise. Should we choose hot yoga, HIIT, kickboxing, Zumba, spin, dance, distance running, or water aerobics?

It seems to me that people, especially those of us in the privileged United States, spend quite a bit of our time, resources and energy on our physical selves — on a body that, no matter what we do, will one day stop functioning. It is important to take good care of this body of life that we have been given. I wonder, though, if we give the same intensity of thought to the care of our spirit and soul that we Christians understand to be eternal.

Lifelong Formation is the term we now use for what we used to call Sunday School, VBS, Adult programming for Wednesdays, and other activities of learning. And, there is a reason for this. Unlike education programs that focus on intellectual acquisition of information, Lifelong Formation has the primary objective of providing opportunities for us to form ourselves into the image of Jesus.

This coming year will have wonderful opportunities for children and adults to participate regularly in the care of our spirits and souls in the offerings on Sunday mornings, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, EfM class, and special events. Take a little time to look at your Spiritual Soul Shape. After a good look, you might want to choose a “formation” plan for yourself at Holy Apostles this year. It would be wonderful to have full classes every week — and I hope to see you there!!

— Deacon Marti Holmes



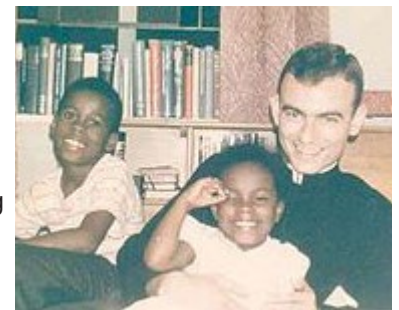
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage August 10

Each August, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Episcopal Diocese of Central Gulf Coast and the Commission on Race Relations in the Diocese of Alabama sponsor the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. This event relives the martyrdom of Episcopal Seminarian, Jonathan Myrick Daniels and 14 other Alabama civil rights martyrs of the 1960s.

Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels lost his life in Hayneville protecting a young black girl while they attempted to purchase a soda at a local market. Daniels was unarmed and shot at point blank range. A Catholic priest near him was also shot in the back which left him with life-long disabilities. Two young women survived because of the actions of Jonathan and Fr. Morrisroe.

This year's pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, August 10, 2019 in Hayneville, Alabama. The Pilgrimage Procession and Service will begin at 11:00 a.m., and will end with a celebration of the Eucharist in the very courthouse where the man who killed Daniels was acquitted.

This is an important, meaningful, and moving experience for adults and youth. If you would like to attend with others from Holy Apostles, please call or e-mail Deacon Marti before August 5.



Sawyerville Ministry Serves Hale County Students

Recently, HA members served lunch to Sawyerville Summer Camp students at Tannehill IronWorks Historical State Park in McCalla. So, what is Sawyerville? According to Wikipedia, Sawyerville — formerly known as Sawyers Depot — is an unincorporated community in west-central Hale County. Named for an early postmaster, it is a part of the Tuscaloosa metropolitan area, but Sawyerville itself has a small population. But, ‘*Sawyerville*’ is also a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama that serves children (ages 6-13) from Hale County — providing needed childcare while reinforcing and improving academics with summer learning programs.

At Tannehill, Apostles met an entire family — the Rays—devoted to teaching and serving these children. The family included recently retired teacher Debra Ray, and math teachers Nora Ray; and Robert Ray. Volunteer interns and the Summer Learning Coordinator, Breanna Mitchell, assisted them.

Nora Ray, a 2nd grade teacher at Greensboro Elementary (where the program is headquartered), described the summer curriculum. Over four weeks, students improve their reading comprehension; explore science by learning about weather (3rd) and animals (4th), as well as character education and two types of math education—math facts fluency and strategies. The students take swimming lessons twice weekly; have fun at ‘free playground, and engage in creative writing, Makers Space (engineering) and enjoy the air-conditioned Bookroom. They also engage in Robotics!

By summer’s end, students have experienced 96 hours of curricula support and enjoyed field trips to the Birmingham Museum of Art, the B’ham Zoo, and the Civil Rights Institute. Their reading scores improved 2.7 levels in just four weeks in 2018! Families also received booster seats for their cars, and the kids are trained in bicycle safety and fitted for helmets through the Safe Child program.

Nora Ray commented, “[I am] thankful for the opportunity to work with the students of Greensboro Elementary, to strengthen relationships, and help them improve their math skills. The ministry that the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama has going on, through Sawyerville, is truly amazing. They are meeting needs and feeding His sheep!

For more information on Sawyerville, check out their Website and Facebook pages—<https://www.sawyerville.org/>



Disaster Site Response

The Holy Apostles Disaster Preparedness Ministry offers a handout in the Narthex to help our families prepare for natural emergencies. This ministry acts at the direction of The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama through their Disaster Relief Coordinator and also has a representative to coordinate with Episcopal Relief and Disaster. As a parish, we first respond monetarily and if needed may travel to the affected community with hands-on help.

A committee member recently shared their family has a “go box” filled with copies of important papers which can be taken with them in the event the family had to leave quickly in an emergency and includes documents such as health, home, auto insurance paperwork; deeds; financial info; and other important information. The following are two stories from HA parishioners sharing their experiences and what they learned:

Following Hurricane Michael, a group from throughout the diocese went to Port Saint Joe, FL to assist with disaster recovery. I was happy to be a part of this group as I learned a great deal, met some wonderful people, worked hard to make a difference, and saw first hand how a devastating storm can change so many things so quickly. Many residents simply relocated, however, a Sheriff's Deputy whose house we worked on could not leave his community. It was his job to be there and care for others while also caring for his wife, two small children, and their police K-9 German Shepherd while “living” at a church where we slept in bunk beds behind a partition, made our food and ate in their kitchen, and cleaned up in one shower that was wisely built when the church was.

- *Thank goodness I had rebuilt a house and was familiar with construction. It is best to have Habitat experience, I learned!*
- *We found only four eating establishments were able to rebuild quickly and return to business which made food expensive and scarce.*
- *Access to tools and supplies was also a challenge and we had been given misinformation as to what tools to bring but we made due.*
- *I learned that being respectful of these storm victims their feelings, struggles, etc. took a concerted effort. It was THEIR experience.*
- *Putting your own emotions aside to listen to the stories of those who endured trauma and truly displaying kindness (through your attention to their every word)was tough to navigate. It takes a strong mindset to acknowledge that we will never really know how they were affected.*

It was a wonderful experience, physically tough, emotionally difficult, and very humbling. These missions are not for everyone. We all want to make a difference and making progress on the Deputy's home while providing a little less stress for him living in poor conditions was reassuring. I continue to pray for him and his family while he continues to care for the community.

—Donna Elling

In the hot summer after Hurricane Katrina, some Holy Apostles and St. Stephens volunteers traveled to Bay St. Louis, MS to assist with clean-up. We slept in tents, took showers in portable trailers and ate meals in a parish hall. Each morning we were organized into groups, given our tasks and tools then headed out to homes to help the owners in rebuilding.

We worked in some homes 10 miles away from the coast who had received water damage. As we traveled to the sites there were FEMA trailers, mounds of sheetrock, home items, and clothes piled up beside the streets where people had lost almost everything. And these were the lucky folks, they had a frame of a house left. During this time we cleaned up debris, prepped homes, hauled in supplies, painted and anything that would help the owner try and get back in their home.

The biggest thing we did was ...to listen. We listened to their stories, where they were, what they saw and didn't see when they returned, how this had impacted their lives, their families and their town. These strong people endured more than I could ever imagine and through all of this, their gratitude was immeasurable. Just having someone there to work with them filled all of our hearts.

I encourage you to consider the call when help is needed. Your presence matters and your assistance is needed. Whether it's moving debris to the street, cleaning, building and just listening. You can share your talents and time with God's children whose lives have been changed forever.

—Susan Jackson



Apostles cooked with Spirit this Spring

It was another great Spring season for the Apostles with Fire!

We decided to be a little less festive and focus on the food this year with our submission for the Gumbo Gala. Led by Patrick Schexnailder, we cooked at Holy Apostles the afternoon before to allow the flavors to fully infuse before heading to the Gumbo Gala. We had quite a few helpers to serve the crowd. Not surprisingly, the people liked Patrick's gumbo and we came home with the 3rd place People's Choice award. We look forward to seeing what theme the creative minds of our church can come up with for the next Gumbo Gala on May 2, 2020.

The Crawfish Boil also had a great turnout this year! Quite a few of you showed up to enjoy the delicious crawfish and shrimp served up by Boilmaster Paul Gilbert. This year there were plenty of donations for drinks and supplies. The snow cones were a huge hit as always and the baked goods were a popular addition. Also new this year was a raffle for items many generous parishioners provided. We'll be sure to keep everyone posted on the date for next year and our 23rd Annual Crawfish Boil!



3rd place People's Choice award at the Gumbo Gala



VBS Roars With Excitement at Holy Apostles

Wow, what a week it has been! We are so grateful for the 24 sweet children that joined us this year! We have played games, learned fun new songs, spray painted shirts, had water balloon fights, made slime, met the pharaoh, run countless relay races, stuffed lion face pillows, and ultimately learned that even when life is unfair, scary, changes, sad, or is good, GOD IS GOOD!

This week would not have been possible without all of your help, donations, and support. A huge thank you to everyone that volunteered their time, brought in supplies, made yummy dinners, and prayed for us. It really does take a village and we are so blessed to have such an incredible village at Holy Apostles.



We hope you will join us next year for *Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through*, July 2020.



It's Back-to-School Time!

Trace Crossings School Supplies Ministry

August brings the end of summer and the start of the school year for students. Holy Apostles School Supplies Ministry reaches out to Trace Crossing Elementary School with the hope of providing supplies for students in need. Not all students are able to purchase what they need for a successful year, so HA's ministry steps in. This partnership has provided supplies for more than 40 students each year. We look forward to another successful fall.

The supplies provided can be per person/per grade or they can be individual supplies given to the teachers as replacement supplies. We hope you find space in your heart to participate in this ministry.

Trace Crossings Backpack Program

We are blessed to have food in the pantry or to eat when we want to, well that is not the case for all of the students at Trace Crossings Elementary School. In order to assure the students in need have food on the weekends, we have partnered with Hoover Helps and Trace Crossings to provide "backpacks" each Friday the students are in school. Each backpack includes shelf staples that students can eat or prepare for themselves and will sustain them over the weekend. Over the years, Holy Apostles has provided as few as 16 per week and as many as 78 per week. In the past, Discovery Methodist Church has partnered with our Vestry splitting the cost of the backpacks. We look forward to their continued partnership. Hoover Helps has also supplemented our funding so we can continue to provide weekly backpacks during the school year. We will kick off this program again in September.



Last year Principal Quincy Collins from Trace Crossings Elementary School accepted backpacks at the yearly Blessing of the Backpacks.

The Second Mountain: *A Contemplative Journey*

A regular and intentional contemplative practice is a way to build a stronger personal relationship with God. It also supports us in living our Baptismal Covenant — to be the eyes, ears, arms, legs, and the heart of Christ on earth. Ultimately a devoted contemplative practice supports us in living our Belovedness — living from the power of the Holy Spirit that is in each one of us.

Please join us this Fall as we offer a simple, quiet, and loving space to grow in our relationship with God. We will meet weekly for approximately 90 minutes and will use prayer, *Wisdom Circles* (Holy listening), and *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks as our guides.

There will be an information session on Monday, August 19, at 6:00 pm at Holy Apostles. We will begin our weekly practice on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions, contact Rosemary Bogan at (205) 919-5124 or rosemarybogan@aol.com.



Peggy Riehle and Bill Davis present Boilmaster Paul Gilbert with his favorite Heath Bar Cake, a gift for what he does each year for the Crawfish Boil. Thank you, Paul!

Youth Sunday Honored Graduating Seniors, Ashlee Frier and Hudson Dunbar

As a graduating high school senior on Youth Sunday, **Ashlee Frier** shared her memories of growing up at Holy Apostles and how the EYC impacted her life. It was a very emotional story as she explained her struggles of feeling left out from her friends at school and felt alone. However, when she turned to the EYC, she felt welcomed and accepted. She learned about life, friendships, the Bible, and church, as well as about herself — how to build relationships, how to be a good leader, and role model.

Ashlee’s summer started off with a ‘girls’ graduation trip to Walt Disney World, vacationed on a family trip to Cancun, Mexico, and prepared for the next chapter in her life. Ashlee knows that God is watching over her, giving her strength and guidance, and is looking forward to attending Mississippi State University beginning in August.



Hudson Dunbar commented in his talk that he wouldn’t be at Holy Apostles for a while because of his commitment to tour the U.S. with the Drum Corps International (DCI). But, he also noted that if you ever wanted to know what he (or Holly) is doing, just check out his mom’s Facebook page. About Youth Sunday, Suzanne Dunbar commented, “This is a beautiful tradition that shows our youth that their voices are important to us. You could tell from their talks that they feel God’s love through out Church family.” Hudson is attending Auburn University and is a member of the Auburn Marching Band.





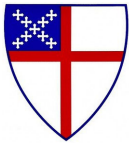


The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles

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For more information
about Holy Apostles,
contact our Rector at
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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)