

Fall 2019

## Clergy

The Rev. Blake Hutson  
*Rector*

The Rev. Marti Holmes  
*Deacon*

José 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)



## A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

In the pages that follow, you'll see pictures and articles from our 25th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 13th. It was a great day for Holy Apostles!

The Rev. John Mark Ford was our guest preacher at both services. John Mark and his wife, Charlene, were members of Holy Apostles many years ago. Holy Apostles sponsored John Mark for ordination. At the celebration we honored members from the early days of the parish (1994-1999); clergy that have served the parish over the years were photographed. We also baptized Jonathan "Mac" Cortis — very fitting on that special day.

The 25th Anniversary display was in the Narthex for all to see. Designed by Gina Howell, Lynda Gilbert, and David Mize, it's a wonderful collage of pictures and memories from our past. The display is grouped by ministries, activities, and important moments from the life of the parish. The pictures show members of this community at work, and worship, serving and witnessing, doing God's work in this place.

Looking back gives us perspective. We can see how we've grown, changed, and how far we've come. We can see how God has worked and moved among us. We can see that the Holy Spirit has made us more and more into the Body of Christ.

The pictures are filled with both familiar and unfamiliar faces. This reminds us that our parish is an ever-changing mix of people. All of us are drawn by the Spirit to be at Holy Apostles, and we are led to stay here for different reasons. We worship, we serve, and we grow together. From time to time, some members move on and we miss them (death, moving, etc.).

We also look ahead to our next 25 years — and beyond. We must keep asking "What is God calling us to do?" "What ministries are we being called to start?" "How are we being called to serve our community?" I look forward to seeing how we answer these questions. If history is our guide, we will continue to grow (spiritually, ministries, and facilities) in the years ahead.

Join me in giving thanks for the past, for God's faithfulness to our parish, and the generous and loving hearts of our members. Pray for our future; ask for God to continue to lead, guide and direct our parish; ask for the Holy Spirit to bring people who need what we have to share. May God bless our next 25 years!

*Almighty God, you sent your Son to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the Kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever and ever. Amen. (BCP, 838)*

Warm regards,  
Blake

Mark Your Calendar

**November 15**

Starry Night Market,  
5:30-8:30 p.m., Holy Apostles

**December 1**

First Sunday in Advent

**December 4, 11, 18**

Wednesday Night Programs  
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer  
6:00 p.m. Dinner  
6:25 p.m. Program  
*Advent: Living between Memory and Hope*  
Taught by The Rev. Dr. Mike Pasquarello

**December 8**

Second Sunday in Advent

**December 15**

Third Sunday in Advent

**December 22**

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
9:30 a.m. Children's Pageant Practice  
10:30 a.m. Children's Pageant and Holy Eucharist  
11:45 a.m. Greening of the Church and  
Potluck Lunch

**December 24**

Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. Candles and Carols  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

**December 25**

Christmas Day  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**December 29**

First Sunday after Christmas  
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II  
10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

Gifts for St. Nicholas Tree Is Here



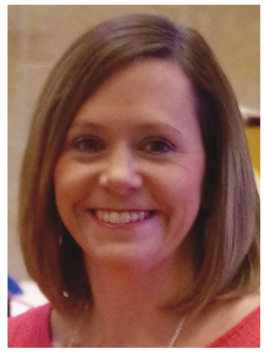
This year gifts from St Nicholas are needed for more than 45 children!

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.

We need \$40 per child to make our goal.

*Holiday Cheeseballs*

You likely enjoyed a delicious cheeseball at the reception following the All Saints' Taizé Service. These wonderful appetizers were provide by the folks at Epiphany, Leeds, and you have an opportunity to enjoy them again. As a fundraiser for the ministries at their parish, the members of Epiphany are selling them. You may place your order by completing an order form found in the narthex. We hope you will support our sister parish by ordering one (or more) to serve at your holiday celebrations or to give as gifts to others.



Hi everyone! I have been honored to serve on this Vestry and as Senior Warden for 2019. When I came onto the Vestry in 2017, we were just beginning our Strategic Visioning process with Ministry Architects. I was able to learn much about this parish during that process, and we have come far in three short years! The future is bright for our parish.

I peeked back at the parish financials from my first month on the Vestry in January 2017. At that time, our mortgage was just under \$800,000. As of October 2019, all I can say is WOW! Because of our Lighting the Way campaign and the generosity of all of you, the mortgage balance as of October 1 is \$445,641.37. On behalf of your Vestry and the entire parish, THANK YOU! How strongly we finish this year depends on everyone's continued financial support and commitment to meeting our Annual Response pledges in 2019.

Your Vestry continues to work hard to be good stewards of our finances. That, combined with everyone's continued financial support and generosity, we are in a great financial position as a parish. During our annual Vestry retreat in January, we passed a balanced budget. We were also able to plan to support additional costs for the Curate program, which will require a higher cost to us than it has been in the past as we work towards financially supporting our own Priest Associate. This is a goal set during Strategic

Visioning. As you know, we were not able to secure a Curate for 2019 as was originally planned. These additional funds in the budget, along with God's perfect timing, allowed us to begin exploring opening the Little Apostles ministry!

During our Strategic Visioning process in 2017, we were asked to dream big about our future as a parish and possible ways that we could serve our community. We discussed opening our space to the community Monday through Friday when it's not used as much by the parish. Severn parish goals were set during the visioning process, and one of the main goals was a possible childcare program. After much research by the team, the Vestry decided to move forward with establishing an Infant Care Ministry at Holy Apostles. It is a small program, a maximum of eight "Little Apostles" and will be open Monday through Friday during work hours. Not only will the ministry bring new people through our doors and serve our neighbors in a new way, we expect the Infant Care ministry to earn additional revenue for the parish. A director for the program has been hired, the Hoover City Council approved the project, and many improvements around the building were made to prepare for the opening in November.

Holy Apostles is an amazing place! We love BIG, and I am proud to be a member of this parish. I can't wait to see where God leads us in the next several years!

— *Emily F. Bennett*  
Senior Warden

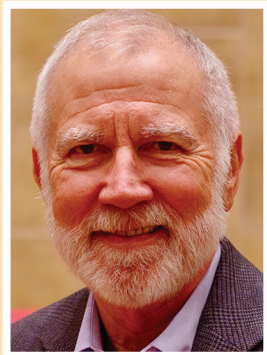
## Annual Parish Meeting

Each October, the parish gathers for an Annual Meeting. The Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer submits a report, as well as many ministries from the parish. Retiring Vestry are recognized and thanked. New Vestry members are elected.

New Vestry members: Ed Burtnett, Rick Frier, and Dee Nance were elected to three year terms. Richard Eppes was also elected to a one-year term. Retiring Vestry are David Mize, Emily Bennett, and Lisa Bridgman



*Betsy Whitfield, Treasurer, gives report.*



Holy Apostles experienced another great year, and an eventful one. Back in the spring, the concept of creating a childcare center at Holy Apostles began to come to fruition. The idea originated as part of our Strategic Visioning Process and as this idea was discussed, it became

more exciting. As discussions took place with directors and assistants from existing centers, the plan became viable.

By late spring, the Vestry approved a plan to initiate the process to create our Center because our existing facility and space could best support an Infant Care Center — babies, six weeks through 12 months of age. However, much work was needed to bring the concept to reality and triggered changes and improvements in other parts of the church as well.

The Nursery and office 2 were painted, but since the painters were here, why not go ahead and do some other painting! Classrooms 2, 3 and 4 received a well-deserved coat of new paint. And, Deacon Marti Holmes did a masterful job of redesigning and organizing classrooms 3 and 4 before painting began. Several infrastructure jobs were completed for the infant center, including removing a bathroom fixture in the lavatory, adding power and plumbing to accommodate a stacked washer/dryer. Cabinets and countertops were installed in the Nursery as were two 110 VAC circuits. All vinyl-tiled floors were cleaned, stripped, and re-waxed — the nursery, office 2, kitchen, restrooms, multi-purpose room, and all classrooms. Keypad locks were added to the main Nursery door as well as on the lavatory door in the multi-purpose room for nursery security. Many thanks

to all of you who contributed to providing for the needs of Little Apostles — you are helping to realize a dream!

### Upgrades to Holy Apostles

The Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry wants you to enjoy the new set-up for fellowship. You may have noticed the new furniture in the narthex, a gift of two wooden tables and two upholstered chairs as well as seat cushioning for the pew. Tablecloths add to the effect.

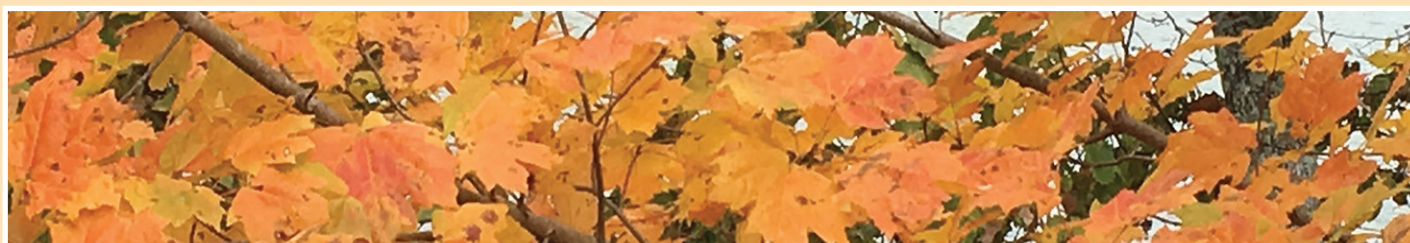
Room identifiers were added to interior doors and return air vents installed in the Nursery and multi-purpose room for improved cooling and heating. The rooms now maintain a comfortable temperature whether the doors are open or closed.

Our Nave Sound System is upgrading, a gift from Dave Gadbois, a long-time member who possesses great skill in sound system design. Some upgrades have been completed and more are to come!

A choir screen was built and given to the church by another long-time member, Paul Gilbert. It serves as a beautiful enhancement for the Nave and required much time and skill to create. Thank you Paul and Dave!

Many thanks to the Property Team and for those who participated in the workday last spring. On Saturday, November 9, we had our fall workday with 25 parishioners helping with projects inside and out. It takes many hands help keep our church beautiful!

— *Charles McCormack*  
Junior Warden



## 25 Years and Counting ...

In October 1994, a group of parishioners from other area churches came together to bring a dream to life. The Diocese of Alabama created the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles as part of an outreach ministry. The beginning was small and slightly rocky — we met in a succession of rented office spaces until the parish took the plunge and constructed the building we call home today.



*At the 25th Anniversary Celebration, we honored early members of the parish. Pictured are members of Holy Apostles between 1994 and 1999.*

The faith of the parish members was there from the beginning, though, as well as our welcoming attitude, which has impressed so many visitors over the years. Joy has brought Holy Apostles through many good times, and determination to grow and fulfill our ministry goals through the bad times. From an uncertain beginning, through a painful time when we struggled financially, we have come through to our current era of growth and the broadening of our ministry to Hoover, to southern Greater Birmingham, and even reaching across the city to our partnership with Grace Episcopal in Woodlawn with our HALO meal for the homeless.

During these 25 years, the joy and fellowship of the people of the parish has remained a constant. We still pass the peace as enthusiastically as we ever have, and we share that peace across the area, with works ranging from our annual Crawfish Boil to our partnership with Trace Crossings Elementary School, to our new Little Apostles Infant Care. We show forth the love of God to our area, as was hoped at our founding, and we look forward to continuing in this mission for many more years to come.

— Bruce Klaiss



## Holy Apostles hosts Daughters of the King’s Fall Assembly

The Fall Assembly Meeting for the Daughters of the King in the Diocese of Alabama was held at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles on September 14, 2019. DOK sisters from throughout the Diocese were in attendance. Dr. José Fernandez presented a program based on the theme for the day, “Harmony — Body, Mind and Soul.” In fulfillment of our vow of service, members of the DOK brought hygiene items that were donated to One Roof, a non-profit agency in Birmingham.



## A Report from the Men’s Club

The Apostles with Fire, Holy Apostles’ signature cooking group, donated “**Cajun Dinner for 25**” to a number of Non-Profit groups to be auctioned off as fund-raisers. Our Gumbo or Pastalaya dinners typically raise from \$700 to \$1,200 at live auction events.

Patrick Schexnailder and Bill Davis cooked for our Host Winner, the 2019 Laura Crandall Brown Cancer Fundraising event, on Saturday, October 12th.

It was a bittersweet day feeding our host, his guests and supporters following their participation in the Race for the Cure Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Our host lost his wife to breast cancer earlier this year. Yep, hugs and moist eyes were to be found! We vacuum-bagged almost two gallons of Chicken & Sausage Gumbo for the host’s freezer.



*Patrick Schexnailder, cooking for the winner of the Laura Crandall Brown Cancer Fundraising event*

## Kairos Outside North Alabama

Recently Ed Gandy, Cindy Puchta, Hillary Ginas, Jim Mersmann and Vickie Gandy served on a Kairos Outside weekend held at Rolling Hills Conference Center in Calera. Twenty-four amazing women attended our October retreat. The weekend theme was “Let Your Light Shine” and it was based on the scripture “*Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path*” Psalm 119:105.

The purpose of Kairos Outside is to support women whose lives have been impacted by incarceration. The weekend is a no-cost Christian retreat for women who have (or have had) a family member or friend who is, or has been, in prison, jail, youth facility, etc. These women also could be former residents of a correctional institution and were not able to attend a Kairos Inside Weekend.

The women who attend can be self-referrals or their loved one can refer them from inside a correctional facility. After attending a Kairos Inside weekend retreat which are held in men’s and women’s facilities, a resident sends Kairos Outside a guest referral form.

These women are doing time right along with their loved one, but no one is providing them with meals, lodging, transportation, or medical and dental care. In most cases the bread winner of the household is the one incarcerated.



We show these women Christ’s love and treat them as Guests of Kairos Outside. Our guests must be at least 20 years of age and the weekends are held twice a year, Spring and Fall. There is no charge for the weekend and, if necessary, the team will help arrange transportation or provide gas cards.

Our teams are made up of caring Christians (men and women) who will share their own life experiences with the guests. Each team will have some ladies who were guests on previous Kairos Outside weekends. The heart of the Kairos Outside ministry is understanding and compassion. We understand the rippling effect that incarceration has on family and friends. Many of the women who attend the weekend retreat are ashamed, guilty, and angry; they also feel isolated and rejected. Many have been rejected by their own church.

The weekend provides an opportunity to know Christ and healing in Christ through the loving care of Christ’s family and an accepting community of friends. During the weekend, they can find other women who can relate to their situation and hold their hand through the journey towards healing.

### A few of the guest comments from our last weekend

- *The weekend was very special. It broke down walls I never even knew were there.*
- *It was the best weekend of my life. I felt a lot of love. I thank God for breaking brick wall down. I am happy and glad.*
- *I didn’t know what to expect, but when I stepped onto this campus I felt love. I never understood isolation until I got here. I have a whole new set of family.*

Thank you to those of you who signed prayer ribbons, colored logos, and made a donation.

— Blessings,  
Vickie Gandy, Weekend Leader  
Kairos Outside #43

## The Whole City Was Gathered at the Door

*Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door.*

— Mark 1:30-33



As I write this reflection, I am thinking about the upcoming Saturday - November 9th .

It is a Property Team workday at Holy Apostles, and at exactly the same time, there is a Cursillo event to attend. During this time, I also need to be driving to the Ordination to the Priesthood for a longtime friend. In the middle of his service, my dear friend and spiritual mentor will begin the celebration of her 90th birthday back in Birmingham. Somewhere in there, I want to Facetime our grandsons and their parents, check in with our son and his wife, and try to connect with our other daughter who will be in a theater, or somewhere, between Canada and Buffalo, New York, I will have to check the schedule to find that out. And, of course, there is the Alabama vs LSU football game. It seems to me that “the whole city is gathered around the door.”

### ***And that is just ONE Saturday.***

The greatest difficulty is figuring out who I will please and who I will disappoint; who needs my support and who can empathize with others who need my presence; what I can physically accomplish and what will drain me of my physical resources or cause injury.

And that is just **my** set of dilemmas. Every one of **you** has an equally messy set of decisions to make. As my friend Steve says, “Life is messy!” We all want to support those we love and treasure. We want to do good works for those in need. We want to be loving Christians, supportive spouses/partners, patient parents, compassionate children for aging parents, loyal friends, active church members, competent employees, and people who are good stewards of their own needs.

### ***But, we can't.***

None of us can do it **all**, **all** of the time. We are limited human beings. We have shortcomings and failings. We cannot be in more than one place at a time.

### ***We are not God.***

We can, though, do most of these things if we share the load with a community of faith and friends. Sometimes I can do part of the work, and sometimes you can do part. So, on Saturday, some of you will be working inside and outside of Holy Apostles; some of you will be participating in the Cursillo event. I will support my friend as the Bishop makes him a priest, and then hurry back to Birmingham to catch the last few minutes of the birthday party. I will find time to talk to our children and grandchildren along the way, and I am absolutely certain that the 100,000 or more folks in Tuscaloosa can be sure that the football team (your choice!) feels supported! Together, we can be the Body of Christ.

### ***Thanks be to God for each of you!***



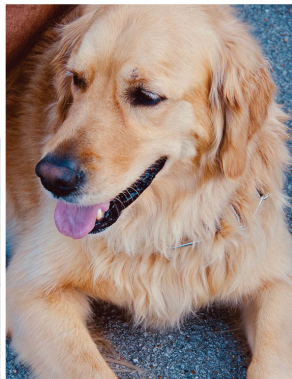
# Little Apostles I N F A N T C A R E

Holy Apostles opened their newest ministry for the youngest among us — infants from newborn to 12 months old — on November 4, 2019. The ministry is an outgrowth of the Strategic Visioning Team goals set in 2017. The ministry is an outreach to serve the community and invite the community into our facility at Holy Apostles. The Hoover Planning & Zoning Commission and later the Hoover City Council approved our rezoning request so the child care center could be opened. If you know of anyone who needs childcare, tell them about our Little Apostles Infant Care!

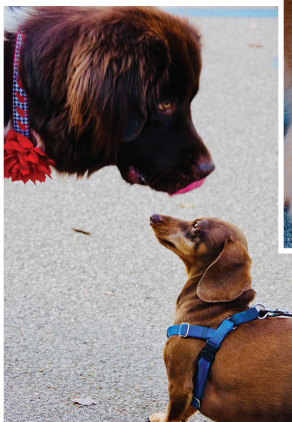
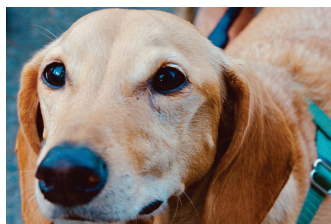


**Betsy Fetner** is the Director of Holy Apostles Little Apostles Infant Care. A graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in Human Environmental Sciences, Betsy most recently served as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for the Diocese of Alabama, as Assistant Director of St. Luke’s Day School and Director of Preschool Ministries. Betsy has a history of working in religious institutions as well as the legal field and is adept at public speaking and fundraising. She has 20 years of professional program and people management. *Welcome to Holy Apostles, Betsy!*

## BLESSING OF THE PETS



We talk a lot about saints in the month of November. One saint is Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4th. At Holy Apostles, we blessed 25 pets at our Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday evening, October 6th.



Come to Starry Night Market for your Christmas shopping on Friday, November 15, 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. at Holy Apostles. Artists, artisans and authors will have gifts for everyone on your list. Authors at the market include children’s authors, poets and our bishop, **The Right Reverend Kee Sloan**, with his books *Jabbok* and *Beulah*.

From **Jabbok**:

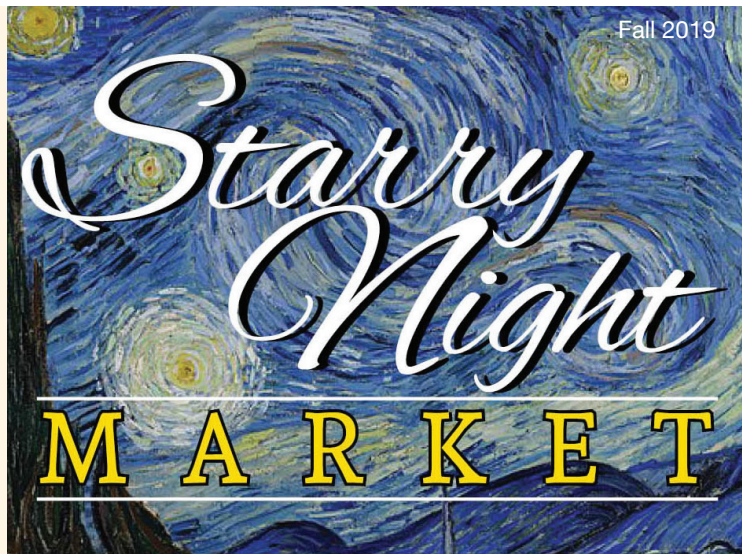
“Every time I learn this, the truer it gets: we can only live our lives looking ahead, and we can only understand them looking back.”

So says Buddy Hinton, the protagonist of Kee Sloan’s mesmerizing debut novel. Growing up in rural Mississippi just a couple of miles from the Mississippi River, eight-year-old Buddy spends his summers playing in the woods behind his neighborhood. The day Buddy spots a wounded deer in those woods, he is wholly unprepared for a chance meeting with a stranger who will shape the course of his life.

In **Beulah**:

Now twenty-five years old, Buddy Hinton is a newly ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. While seminary prepared him for ministry in small congregations in Mississippi, it is his experiences with the people he encounters along his journey, in a little village in the mountains of Honduras, at a summer camp for people with disabilities, and on the steps of his own church, that open his eyes to the mysteries and realities of life, love, ministry, and God.

Starry Night Market is showcasing watercolor, acrylic and oil painters, as well as jewelry artists and a potter who will be selling nativities.



We are honored to present beautiful works by the late Alabama artist **Fred Marchann**. Mr. Marchann has permanent exhibits in the Mobile and Montgomery museums of art.

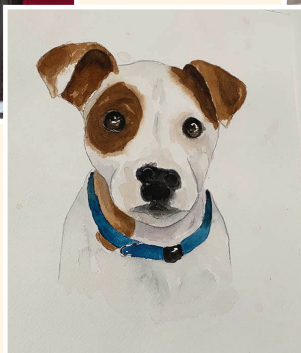
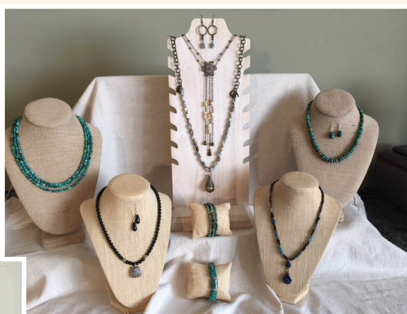
**About Fred Marchann**

Fred Marchman was a Mobile and Southern original. Everyone who knew him said he was born an artist — obsessed, determined, prolific and creative. He called himself a Southern Pop artist and said he was influenced by ancient art, modern painting and sculpture, folk art, esoteric writings, visionary and spiritual themes. He was a painter, printmaker, sculptor, and illustrator who reveled in using paint, wood, canvas, ink, metal, charcoal, crayon, and even concrete, to make his art.



Barbarann Beckett-Gaines

Janice Bellows



Tim Blanton



Betsy Whitfield



Frank Holden



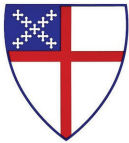


The Episcopal Church of the  
**Holy Apostles**

424 Emery Drive  
Hoover, Alabama 35244

205-988-8000

[www.holyapostleshoover.org](http://www.holyapostleshoover.org)



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