

**Clergy**

The Rev. Blake Hutson  
*Rector*

The Rev. Marti Holmes  
*Deacon*

José Fernandez  
*Seminarian*

**The Vestry  
of Holy Apostles**

*Senior Warden*  
Diane Eggert  
srwarden@holypostleshoover.org

*Junior Warden*  
Charles McCormack  
jrwarden@holypostleshoover.org

Ed Burnett

Drew Dahlgren

Richard Eppes

Rick Frier

Lauren Havard

Dee Nance

Cathy Newhouse

*Clerk*  
Jane Mantooth

*Treasurer*  
Betsy Whitfield

**Worship Schedule**

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
with nursery

9:30 am Christian Education  
with nursery

9:30 am Adult Choir warm-up

10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
with choir and nursery

11:30 am Coffee Hour  
(fellowship following service)



# The Voice of the Holy Apostles

## A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

In the church calendar, Epiphany falls between Christmas and Lent. Epiphany began with the Magi in the East, who were looking for something by following a star in the night sky. They were looking for answers and they were curious about what was going on in the sky above them.

The Magi's journey is a powerful image that fills our imagination. Setting out on a journey, they followed a star they did not understand, to a place they did not know, not knowing what they would find.

Searching and exploring are powerful themes for Epiphany and an important part of the Christian life. We've encountered God in other times and places in our lives and we know, innately and deep down, that we need to find God, even if it's for a short time, on Sundays to be in God's presence.

Awhile back, a parishioner remarked that at his office — in his work environment — it's a 'dog eat dog' kind of place. He worships Sunday, and then starts off the week on Monday and Tuesday pretty well, but as the week wears on, he gets spent. His Fridays are a lot different than Mondays. You and I, we need a place where we can be recharged, a safe haven where we can be cared for and loved; where we can be healed and restored.

Maybe that's why we come to Church, and why we come back to our community week after week and month after month. We are searching for God's presence; we need to be healed and restored. By God's grace we've been led to Holy Apostles.

Not just during this Epiphany season, but throughout the year, we have 'Epiphanies'. Often on Sundays when we worship, you can feel the energy, sense the excitement and feel the joy and love in this community. Parishioners talk about it; newcomers and visitors say they are surprised by it. Energy, joy, excitement are ways we experience the very presence of God residing in this holy place. The Spirit of God abides in us, and in our relationships in this community.

The Magi remind us that faith is a journey — a journey of discovery and growth. Guided by God, we ask questions and seek understanding. We search for God wherever God might be found.

By God's grace, each of us has been led to Holy Apostles. Week in and week out, we find the presence of God here, in the relationships that we share, the overflow of love that we experience. We have Epiphanies week after week as we encounter the presence of Christ and find that our lives are changed in this community.

It is a joy to be on this journey of faith together!

Warm regards,  
*Blake*

## The Process for Electing a Bishop

The selection of a new Bishop is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most of us. With Bishop Kee Sloan's retirement announcement, the process began nearly a year ago. Four candidates offered themselves for service at the *Walk-About for the Election of A Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Alabama*. A Bishop Coadjutor has the right of succession when the bishop retires. All four candidates have connections to the Diocese of Alabama.

The candidates were The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, The Rev. Evan D. Garner, The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles, and The Rev. Aaron D. Raulerson. Clergy and Lay delegates met with the candidates on January 4th at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham. Each was asked the same four questions in a streamed interview. The first was a four-part question that included:

- *What piece of Holy Scripture guides your ministry?*
- *Which liturgy or liturgical practice most feeds you?*
- *What hymn most inspires you?*
- *What authors inspire you?*

### In order in which they responded:



- **The Rev. Aaron D. Raulerson**, whose hometown is Brewton, cited the hymn *Be Thou My Vision* and the liturgy of the sacrament as inspiring, "...the sacrament spoke to my heart...(as) a gift to me... (and the) standard liturgy guides who I am."



- **The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry** from All Saints' in Homewood feels invested in the Diocese of Alabama and the hymn *Lift High the Cross* and the Easter Liturgy as her favorite service.



- **The Rev. Evan D. Garner** from Fayetteville, Arkansas, enjoys *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, a hymn with 14 stanzas, but loves *Praise to the Lord* and the "dramatic moment of the Easter Vigil as we wait for the breakthrough."



- **The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles**, the final candidate to speak, originally from Decatur and currently serving in Fort Worth, Texas, enjoys the liturgy of Baptism and the HE's invitation to Communion and the hymn *Comfort, Comfort Be Ye my People* used during Advent. She likes to use saints and Feast Days to teach at home.



The election took place at Christ Church Cathedral in Birmingham January 18th.

When the Clergy and Lay Delegates arrived, they registered and began worship at 1 pm with Holy Eucharist. After the Peace, the Clergy Delegates were dismissed to the Refectory while Lay Delegates remained in the Nave. The two groups voted simultaneously. For a candidate to be elected, he or she must receive a simple majority (51%) on the same vote in each house. Then candidates are informed of the election results, and at any time a candidate can withdraw. The individual elected has the choice to accept the position. Once accepted, whether physically present or through communication media, the Bishop-Elect addresses the Convention. The service concluded with the Bishop-Elect, Glenda Curry, giving the final blessing.

*The Nave at St. Luke's was the location for the Walk-About for the four candidates on January 4th.*



## Meet Our New Bishop

**T**he Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry was elected bishop coadjutor to become the twelfth diocesan bishop at the electing convention held on January 18, 2020, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Curry is the first woman elected bishop in the Diocese of Alabama. She will succeed the Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan upon his retirement at the end of 2020.

Curry serves as the Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Birmingham, Alabama. She has served as the rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church, Leeds, Alabama. Prior to her ordination, Glenda served as the president of Troy State University in Montgomery. She received her M.Div from The University of the South, Sewanee, in 2002. Curry is married to Dr. William Curry, Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and they are the parents of two adult children.

The election on Saturday afternoon included 141 voting clergy and 251 voting lay members from 76 parishes across north and central Alabama.

On the first ballot, Curry emerged as the clear front-runner. She had 60 clergy votes and 109 lay votes. She was elected on the second ballot with support from 77 clergy and 127 lay delegates.

Curry will be ordained on June 27th, 2020, at The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham.

## February 2 Lighting the Way Celebration

It's hard to believe it's been five years since the parish launched **Lighting the Way**. Due to God's blessings and everyone's generosity, the achievement far exceeded anyone's initial expectations.

At the beginning of the campaign in 2015, the mortgage balance was just under \$1,000,000. Today it is \$431,542.85.

The **Lighting the Way** team members would like to express their thanks to everyone for opening your hearts, your homes, and your resources to this effort. Our parish will celebrate this achievement on February 2nd with a reception following the 10:30 service.

## February 6, 7, 8

189th Diocesan Convention, Camp McDowell

## February 25 Shrove Tuesday

Red Beans and Rice Supper  
6:30 p.m., Holy Apostles

Burning of the Palms Liturgy  
7:45 p.m., Holy Apostles

## February 26 Ash Wednesday

Holy Eucharist I and Imposition of Ashes  
7:30 a.m., Holy Apostles

Holy Eucharist II and Imposition of Ashes  
Noon, Holy Apostles

Taize Service and Imposition of Ashes  
7:00 p.m., Holy Apostles

## March 4

Wednesday Night Lenten Series begins:  
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer  
6:00 p.m. Supper  
6:25 p.m. Class

## Welcome Your New Vestry Members



***Ed Burnett***

**Ed Burnett** begins his first term on the Vestry. A lifelong Episcopalian, he is currently a student in Education for Ministry (EfM) and a Holy Apostle since 2012.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in business at South Alabama and a Master of Business Administration from Spring Hill College, both in Mobile.

After a long career in healthcare as a department head and vice-president in two systems, he now enjoys Sunday School and is the immediate past-president of the Hoover Rotary. He and Debbie have two sons and three grandchildren.

**Rick Frier** and wife, Marjee, started bringing their kids to Holy Apostles (in the office down the hill) shortly after 9/11. So, they have been part of the Holy Apostles family for almost 20 years, with a short hiatus here and there.



***Rick Frier***

Their oldest daughter, Andee, is now married and a Vestry member at her Episcopal church in Bay St. Louis, MS. Their son, Chase, was a toddler back then and he is now in his second year in the US Navy. Ashlee, also a toddler back then, is a freshman at Mississippi State. Madee came later and was visited in St. Vincent's by Mother Maggie (she is still the baby — a junior and varsity cheerleader at Hoover High School). Lots of great memories through the years — serving Eucharist with our kids as acolytes and crucifer; candlelight services, Camp McDowell weekends, supper club groups, crawfish boils, running club and men's group dinners...HA always felt like an extension of our family, which was wonderful because we didn't have extended family in the area for most of that time. Through the years Rick has participated in various ministries, but he expects



***Dee Nance***

Vestry will be the most challenging and rewarding. Marjee and Rick feel truly blessed, and he looks forward to serving.

**Dee Nance** is a New Jersey transplant. She came to Alabama via North Carolina where she attended East Carolina University. She earned her degree in Therapeutic Recreation, and after working at Lakeshore, she began her career with the City of Hoover.

Dee began attending Holy Apostles down the hill over 20 years ago. She was not raised in the church, but when a friend brought her to Holy Apostles, she found her Church family. She has been involved with the Community Kitchen at Grace Woodlawn (HALO) for as long as she has been a member. She now works with the Trace Crossings Ministry. This is her first year on the Vestry.

## Santa Visits Episcopal Place

**O**n December 6th, Holy Apostles hosted a party at Episcopal Place to celebrate December birthdays. We were honored to celebrate 17 of the residents birthdays with cupcakes, ice cream, party mix and soft drinks. They always look forward to a visit from Santa (left, our very own Jim Mersmann) who entertained everyone with a few jokes and handed out birthday gifts and gingerbread cookies. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this fun and rewarding event!

— Gina Howell



Scott and Suzanne Dunbar hosted a college get-together at their home on December 26th. Shown are (l to r): Max Paris (sometimes goes by “Brasher” these days), Holly Dunbar, Hudson Dunbar, Alex Fague, Nick Fuller, Spencer Lotz, and Alyssa Roach.

## Hoover Mayor Frank Brocato Attends Ribbon Cutting for Little Apostles Infant Care Opening



Little Apostles  
INFANT CARE

## First Starry Night Market a Success!

Many thanks to all artists, artisans and authors who participated in Starry Night Market on November 15th. A very talented group of twenty creative individuals made the market, our very first market, a success.

The Rt. Reverend Kee Sloan sold his books while Lisa Jackson was a hit with her fused glass artwork. Barbara Ann Beckett-Gaines displayed her pottery and Kathy Whatley kept folks warm with her knitted items. Woodwork, paintings, candles, jewelry, and books galore were sold at the market. Starry Night was Christmas shopping at its best — local, handmade and from the heart.

In addition to fabulous creative works, guests enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, sangria, a wine pull and live music provided by Sam Morris, pianist extraordinaire. All in all, it was a lovely evening supporting the arts, Holy Apostles and our community.

Thank you to all who participated in and all who attended Starry Night Market 2019. Stay tuned for information about Starry Night Market 2020. It promises to be even better!



Participating artists for the 2019 show included: Barbara Ann Beckett-Gaines, clay; Janice Bellows, jewelry; Tim Blanton, watercolor; Pat Davis, mixed media; Sally Dollar, children's book; Frank Holden, oil and watercolors; Kelly Hoogenakker, children's book; Kelley Hudlow, paintings; Raquel Innis-Shelton, author; Lisa Jackson, fused glass; Megan Jemison, acrylics; Sam & Tony Kok, paintings; Kim McKenzie, jewelry; Jim Mersmann, author; Mary Saggus, watercolors; Sabrina Shaw, oils/ceramics; Craig Showranek, woodworks; Kee Sloan, author; Betsy Whitfield, candles; and Kathy Whatley, knitted items.



**H**oly Apostles celebrated the start of Epiphany, a season of light and gifts, on Sunday night, January 5, with an Epiphany Party. Epiphany is the traditional day we celebrate the coming of three Magi bringing gifts to the Christ child. Parish Life hosted a chili supper with the EfM class participating in the Stations of Epiphany, including chalking the entrance.

The Christian custom of chalking the door has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death. The Epiphanytide practice represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi and serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.





**Epiphany House Blessing**

**20 + C + M + B + 20**

*The numbers represent the New Year*

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2 meanings for C, M, B

(Caspar) (Melchior) & (Balthasar)  
traditional names for the magi

**"CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT"**  
which in Latin means  
**"MAY CHRIST BLESS THIS HOUSE"**

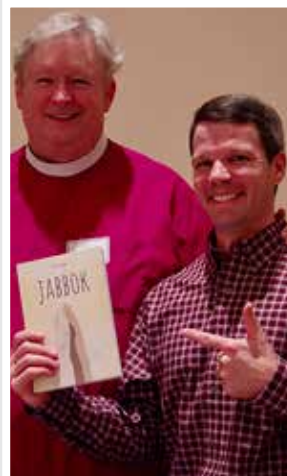
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The "+" signs represent the cross  
and 2020 is the year of the blessing.





# Founding Member, Dot Cooke, Celebrates Her 100th Birthday





The Episcopal Church of the  
**Holy Apostles**

424 Emery Drive  
Hoover, Alabama 35244

205-988-8000

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



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

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