

Spring 2022

Clergy

The Rev. Blake Hutson
Rector

The Rev. Emily Collette
Curate

The Rev. Dr. José Fernández
Associate Clergy

The Vestry of Holy Apostles

Senior Warden
Dee Nance
srwarden@holypostleshooover.org

Junior Warden
Ed Burtnett
jrwarden@holypostleshooover.org

Phillip Crunk

Scott Dunbar

Richard Eppes

Hillary Ginas

Jane Mantooth

Kathy Whatley

Clerk
Tracy Wayland

Treasurer
Betsy Whitfield



A Message From the Rev. Blake Hutson



Dear Apostles,

During his life, Jesus performed many miracles. These miracles not only teach us something about Jesus, but also something about ourselves and about how God works in the world.

One of my favorite miracle stories is ‘the feeding of the five thousand.’ The Gospel writers thought this story was so important that all four, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, included this miracle in their Gospel.

The story goes like this: Crowds were following Jesus and as evening approached, everyone started to get hungry. Instead of sending them away to fend for themselves, Jesus had compassion on the people. The disciples brought to Jesus the food that they could find: five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took what they brought to him, blessed it, broke the food, and gave the food to the disciples. The disciples in turn gave it to the hungry people. All ate and were filled — five thousand men, plus women and children. In the end, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

So basically, the disciples saw there was a need. The disciples responded by bringing what they had to Jesus. Jesus blessed it. Then Jesus used it. There was so much food...there was an abundance!

Over the last month, with our Bridging the Gap effort, we saw this miracle in our church! There was a need and Holy Apostles responded. We brought what we had and contributed what we could to address our budget deficit. Our gifts were collected and brought together. They were blessed. They will be used. There was so much given...there was an abundance! We not only bridged the gap, but we also exceeded it!

The scriptures show us that God works through each one of us. We all have something valuable to contribute. This has been one of those times we see God at work in our church and in the lives of God’s people. One of the lessons: we can’t be afraid to trust God. The same God at work in the scriptures is the same God at work in our parish.

Giving to God is part of our spiritual lives. When it comes to Stewardship, we each have something to give, a valuable contribution to make. God takes our collective gifts and turns them into an abundance!

We want to express our gratitude and thanks for what you’ve given to our 2022 Stewardship efforts. Look at what we have done this year and with God’s help, imagine what we can do next year...and in the years to come!

*Warm regards,
Blake*

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



*Stained glass window
from Christ Church, Fairfield*

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist II

Passion Reading

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Foot Washing

Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 15

Good Friday

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Seven Last Words Service

with Communion from Reserved Sacrament

3

Saturday, April 16

The Great Vigil of Easter

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise

Holy Eucharist II

(Outside-weather permitting)

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II (inside)

10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist II

w/Choir & Nursery Care

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Youth and Children's Ministries at Holy Apostles

The COVID-19 pandemic was especially challenging for youth and children's ministries at Holy Apostles. In 2020, when all or most of our ministries had to be scaled back or temporarily suspended, youth and children's ministries lacked even the online components that allowed the rest of the parish to gather virtually. And while we certainly were able to offer families a variety of materials that were designed to strengthen our children's relationship with God from home, we were limited in our ability to gather and form meaningful relationships as a parish family.

However, in the fall of 2021, we were finally able to begin offering more robust programming for our youth and children. We are offering in-person Sunday school for youth from age four through twelfth grades. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who teach the children's class on a monthly rotating basis. Our youth ministries have been reinvigorated by the dedicated ministry of Rosemary Bogan, who has faithfully offered Sunday school to our Jr. and Sr. high class, as well as EYC twice a month. We have also been able to offer regular fellowship events for our children due to the planning and support of Laura and Richard Eppes, along with innumerable and invaluable volunteers.

In the coming weeks, we have a several youth and children's offerings. On Palm Sunday, April 10th, the youth host a Palm Sunday Salad Bar fundraiser following the 10:30 a.m. service. We hope you will stay for lunch and support the EYC ministries at Holy Apostles. On Easter Sunday, a children's Easter Egg hunt for those in fifth grade and younger will follow the 10:30 a.m. service. And on May 1st, our annual Youth and Children's Sunday, in which youth will serve as worship leaders, is scheduled for the 10:30 a.m. service.

The Church is fond of saying that children are the future, but it is important to remember that children and youth are also the Church NOW. With your support and encouragement, Holy Apostles hopes to continue offering worship, fellowship, and outreach opportunities for the youth. To find out how you can get involved, please contact me!

— Blessings,
Emily Collette
Curate



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Youth Community, EYC, recently went bowling! All youth are invited to participate in future activities.

A Report from Our Senior Warden



Holy Apostles' 2022 Vestry started the New Year with three new members; a goal of keeping the Curate position; a proposed deficit budget; and the hope for returning to indoor services and saying good-bye to Covid.

As we begin April and continue the Lenten season, we here at Holy Apostles have so much to be grateful for. Here are some highlights of those blessings:

- Our new members, Kathy Whatley, Scott Dunbar, and Hillary Ginas are invaluable assets to the Vestry
- The Vestry agreed to fund the Curate position half-time as the Curate is a major contributor to the Clergy team
- A balanced budget was submitted to the Diocese by using funds from the checking account to cover the deficit
- Fr. Blake assembled the Bridging the Gap committee with José facilitating. The energy that was generated resonated with the membership and we as a church have exceeded the goal of \$34K
- Indoor services have resumed but we will keep an outdoor service the first Sunday in April, May, and June (weather permitting.)

I hope you have read the Happenings weekly addition of “Vestry Vibes.” There are so many important functions and activities of the parish that make us the Parish we are ... that the Vestry wants to highlight these at least weekly.

Again, feel free to reach out to me or any of the Vestry to share your thoughts, questions, concerns, or suggestions. We want to continue to build, bring back membership, and engage the parish. You are an important partner in that goal!

— *Peace,*
Dee Nance
Senior Warden

A Report from Our Junior Warden



The annual inventory of fixed assets at HA was completed earlier this year. Furniture, equipment, books, vestments and other items of value were listed and documented with photographs. The complete inventory is in the file cabinet in the main office and on the church computer, backed up to the cloud.

The Vestry liaison for each ministry is aware of the policy. A form for

updating the inventory must be completed. Please check with the Junior Warden for the proper form.

On February 15 the smell of smoke was detected in the church and the fire department was called to investigate.

The source was a wire on an air handling unit in the attic that shorted out and burned but there was no active fire. The unit has been repaired. Thanks to the Hoover Fire Department and kudos to the Little Apostles' staff that prepared the infants for evacuation as a precaution.

Please notice the bricks under our steeple that were recently power washed and look like new!

A workday is set for Saturday, April 9th, from 8 AM - Noon. We'll do some cleaning in the Nave including the chairs, wash some windows, change out some fluorescent lights and maybe do some patching and painting in EYC room. Coffee and some breakfast snacks will be served.

— *Ed Burtnett*

Bridging the Gap

Many theologians believe that what we know today as the 2nd letter of Paul to the Corinthians, was in fact a combination of more than one letter Paul wrote to the church he founded in Corinth. Paul was a believer that creating communities of faith to support the doctrines and ministries of Christ required the unity of Jews and Gentiles. With this in mind, Paul had agreed with Jewish Christians in Jerusalem to help the poor by collecting an offering from the churches he had founded in Greek territories. Chapter 8 and 9 of 2nd Corinthians describe Paul's position in fundraising. These chapters have been used as a framework for Christian understanding of stewardship.

Our "Bridging the Gap" initiative was based on Paul's framework. When Scott Dunbar, Diane Eggert, David Mize, Cathy Newhouse, Blake and I initiated a plan to invite the congregation to participate in this initiative, we had no idea of what to expect. We were humbled by the generosity of our fellow parishioners, and celebrated how every week, the numbers increased from approximately \$5K, to \$14K, to \$28K, to \$32K, to \$38K, to \$43K, to more than \$48K!!! Today we do not have a financial gap; in fact, we have additional funds to direct into our mission and outreach.



This initiative, however, was more than a financial strategy. I believe that 2nd Corinthians 9: 7, "God loves a cheerful giver", invites us to do more than just sharing our finances. Although I have understand

that keeping Holy Apostles and its ministries functioning requires monetary resources, it also requires the gifts of people. Being a cheerful leader also invites us to reflect upon our talents, our commitment, and our time. It invites us to step out of our comfort zone,



and extend the actions of our Christian faith to others. It invites us to be committed with the orphan, the widow and the foreigner. It invites us to be aware of our actions, so we might act justly, love tenderly and always walk with our God. It invites us to stand firm, and to make no peace with oppression.

Responding to these invitations, as clearly stated by Paul, should never come from a place of coercion, reluctance, or compulsion. Paul invites us to give what we have decided in our hearts, as little or as much, according to our means. I think it is in that heart-searching, heart-filling, decision making, introspective process where God speaks to us, it is in that place of discovering what giving from our hearts mean where the spirituality of giving resides! The gift of giving to God is a product of our inner conversations with God, it is an expression of our own theology, and of our own relationship with our Creator. When we reach that place, we finally understand that "giving is a spiritual practice!"

On behalf of the clergy team and the members of the "Bridging the Gap" committee, I thank you for your gifts... all of them... and pray that you hear the calling of God to share those gifts with the world around you. After all, isn't that the way to practice building the Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven?"

— José Fernández
Associate Clergy

A Call to Mission – Parting Words

On October 1st, 2011, as I was ordained to the diaconate, I left my “sending parish” of St. Stephen’s to begin ministry at Grace, Woodlawn. I physically left the community of St. Stephen’s, but I carried that community in my heart, and it is there, still today. When my ministry at Grace came to its close, I physically departed that community, but it took up residence in its special place in my heart as I then made my way to serve this wonderful community that is Holy Apostles. It has been my joy and privilege to live and work in this parish community for over seven years, serving God with you, and receiving your love and support. I will always give thanks to God for each of you, and you have been such a gift to me!

In the ordination of the deacon, it specifically says that a deacon serves “directly under the bishop” and that we are “to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.” In a very real way, deacons are missionaries – we are always to be available to be sent – that is what mission means – to be sent. So, last summer, when All Saints in Montgomery suddenly found themselves without a priest, Bishop G asked if I would be willing to serve as supply clergy to lead worship until the end of December. This is not the usual work of a deacon, but when there is a need, and the bishop makes the request, as a deacon you go where that need is, and I was most willing to go. I was assured that another deacon would share that assignment one Sunday each month. The other deacon was serving as supply clergy two Sundays each month at another parish, so we each would have three Sundays a month on duty as supply clergy.



As you are aware, our diocese has very limited resources of part-time, bi-vocational priests and deacons. Adding to that, during this same time, the other churches in the Montgomery area were seeking clergy to fill available slots, and so when December arrived, there were no available clergy to help supply at All Saints. The Bishop then asked me to take a longer, more formal appointment as Interim Deacon in Charge at All Saints to provide time for the parish and the diocese to find a way to meet their long-term clergy needs. With Holy Apostles well-staffed with clergy, my departure would not inhibit the ministry we shared, and there was a true need at All Saints. I am ordained to be a missionary to those in need; it is my call, and my heart was compelled to answer with a “yes”.

Abraham answered a call to move. So did Moses, and Jacob, and Jesus, and Paul and all of the Apostles. Answering that call also means that we must learn to say goodbye to people we love and serve. I love you and miss you. I know that you will always be in my heart, and I hope that you find a place in your heart to hold me, too.

— *Always your sister in Christ,*
Marti

Lenten Reflections and Education for Ministry

We hope the Lenten Reflections, which Holy Apostles sends out daily during the 40 days of Lent (through email) are meaningful to you. Did you notice something similar in each day's thoughts? First, each reflection ends with a prayer, a collect, written by the author, and secondly, most of the authors are members of either the Tuesday Morning or Thursday Evening Education for Ministry (EfM) seminar!

If you haven't heard about EfM, you need to – participants in the EfM seminars find them to be spiritually life-changing. Officially, EfM is described as “*small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened.*” Yes, that is true. But we also examine our own beliefs while examining the ordinary and the extraordinary. We read a lot, yes, but the real growth comes in challenging ourselves and each other to think deeper about what it means to be followers of Jesus.

Each week we lead each other in reflection on an experience or a written piece or a photo, or art or a newsclip or even a fishing rod! Inevitably, our discussions lead to important questions on our lives, our community, our faith, and our role in reflecting the face of God to others. Sound deep? Yes, it is. But we have laughs and relate to others in our seminar group in unbelievable ways.

This Lent, the EfM seminar groups decided to share some of our reflections with the Holy Apostles community. Each week, as a result of discussion in the seminar, we articulate “*I believe*” statements that, in turn, leads us to the composition of a group prayer or collect. As our gift to the Parish, we all decided to write reflections during Lent on the daily scripture readings and end it with a prayer – a collect developed by the day's author.

You can also write your own daily prayer! While it sounds intimidating, we use a simple formula:

Dear God ...
 Thank You for ...
 Help us (me) to ...
 So that we (I) may ... Amen

Fill in the blanks!

And think about joining EfM next fall. During the coming months, we will be advertising EfM and answering the questions you may have.

Dear God of all Knowledge, thank you for the opportunity to grow in faith through EfM and thank you for our wonderful mentors, Marti Holmes (Emerita), and José Fernández. Help me to spread the word about this wonderful learning opportunity, EfM, so that we may share it with even more of your Saints here on earth. Amen

See! A collect ... easy, peasy!

— Diane Eggert



Fall (top) and spring (lower) gatherings with the EfM of St. Stephens at the Fernández home

From Daughters of the King

Holy Apostles DOK members help start DOK chapter in Fairfield

When the rector of Christ Church in Fairfield asked Betsy Whitfield to help start a DOK chapter, she agreed. “We began our studies, and the ladies were so eager to learn. They asked questions and wanted to know everything (about DOK.) They read books and discussed the things they learned.”

Deb Burtnett and Betsy attended the ceremony, and the ladies were “so grateful we came to celebrate with them — we witnessed the start of a new DOK Chapter and new members.” Betsy added how proud she is of these ladies “who studied so hard and fought so many problems...we were the ones truly blessed by these new daughters.”



State President Yolanda Seawright (left) and Father Paul Goldman with Betsy Whitfield (both, far right) welcomed new Daughters (l to r) Yolanda Minniefield, Edwina Edwards, Norma Acoff, Donla Calhoun, and Ruthie Thomas.

From Our Fellowship Ministries

First Monday Men’s Dinner is Back!

The Holy Apostles Men’s Group is back to meeting at the church the first Monday of the month and in addition to the great food served, the friendly banter is another reason to attend the monthly meetings. For example, at a recent meeting, some of the folks attending debated whether chicken and dumplings should be served with rice. The question was not resolved.

For the uninitiated, the evening meal is prepared by one or two of the members each month. The meeting includes a quick opening prayer followed by an hour or so of good-natured conversation and storytelling.

Bill Davis, the group’s coordinator, accountant, worship leader, dispute adjudicator, communications director, new member recruiter, seating consultant, and ad hoc food producer, says there is an added benefit for members with children. “We encourage men to bring their children if it’s their parenting night and we want the children of our parish to get to know the men of the parish and vice-versa,” Davis says, adding that this is also a good way for the men to make points with the mothers.

All the men of Holy Apostles are invited to attend, so mark your calendars for the first Monday of each month and get on the group’s mailing list. Your significant other will thank you for attending the meeting and getting out of the house for a couple of hours.



Mark Your Calendar for These Two Holy Apostles Spring Events

A FREE outdoor marketplace will be held Saturday May 21, 2022, from 10 am– 2 pm in the upper parking lot at Holy Apostles. If you missed last October’s first art festival fundraiser, you could join us for the Spring marketplace!

This is a marketplace of unique items, homemade treasures, gifts for all season and one-of-a-kind art pieces by local artisans. There will be a silent auction benefitting the ministries of Holy Apostles.

Vendors are welcome to sell homemade or handmade wares for a \$50.00 donation to the Church. There’s an additional fee for interested Food Trucks (ask for details). To secure a space, go to arts.holyapostleshooover.org/. For additional information, contact Dee at 205-383-5141.



Holy Apostles'
Annual
Crawfish Boil
May 7
11:00am to 2:00pm.
We will have crawfish, shrimp,
hot dogs, chips, and drinks.
• Bounce house for the kids • Frozen treats

It's That Time of the Year ... Gumbo Gala!

Apostles with Fire are looking for anyone or everyone willing to participate with us in this year's Gumbo Gala. The only required skill is a willingness to have fun! This year's event will be on Saturday, April 30th at Cahaba Brewery. It is a great event to get to know some of your Holy Apostles parishioners. If interested in being of our team, please send Patrick Schexnailder a quick email (pschex1@gmail.com) or text (225-907-5522). If you are unable to help, please consider coming to the event to support a great cause — Episcopal Place.

Episcopal Place provides affordable independent living for seniors and adults with disabilities. EP partners with HUD to provide subsidized apartments based on income. All rents include a wide host of services and activities provided at no additional cost. These activities and support for the residents of EP are funded by donations from individuals, organizations, churches and our beloved Gumbo Gala.

The Gumbo Gala, now in it's 17th year, has been recognized as one of the best outdoor festivals in Birmingham multiple times and is our only fundraising event. Your ticket gets you access to music, entertainment, and Gumbo from the 30 teams that will be competing for the chance to be awarded best Gumbo in Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM, AL **17TH ANNUAL** **GUMBOGALA.COM**

EPISCOPAL PLACE

GUMBO GALA

\$20 TICKETS

FREE ENTRY FOR KIDS 12 & UNDER

APRIL 30, 2022

NOON - 3 PM

**LIVE MUSIC
CRAFT BEER
FOOD TRUCKS
& A BUNCH OF
MUMBO GUMBO**

HOSTED BY

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BREWING CO.

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WIND CREEK[®]
CASINO & HOTEL
WETUMPKA

REGIONS

SPM

Episcopal PLACE

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

**Come join us to support
the Apostles with Fire
and all the residents of Episcopal Place
Saturday, April 30th!**

News from our Holy Apostles Parishioners



Holy Apostles was represented at the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, February 3-4th, by José, Emily, Father Blake, Kathy Warren, Mary and Harry Babbitt, and Julia Sanford. This year Convention was held at Camp McDowell.



Carter Eppes: SRO for a day

Hoover PD School Resource Officer Stan Porter recently had a partner while working his shift at school. Carter is a fifth grader at Prince of Peace Catholic School and was named the “POP COP” for the day. They patrolled the grounds and made sure everything was safe and secure. Officer Porter said that Carter’s favorite part of the shift was working the video surveillance system. He said, “Carter learned how to work that system in five minutes, and it would probably take an adult five years to do it!” Glad you enjoyed being the Pop Cop for the day, Carter!

#HooverPD School Resource Officers pride themselves on being more than just a law enforcement presence inside the school. They foster relationships with the students and the staff on a daily basis. It’s why **#welovethisjob**.

Former Apostles Brian and Elizabeth Rabon (2005-2013) have partnered with Scott and Suzanne Dunbar to open a craft distillery and tasting room in the 30A area of Florida’s panhandle — *the 30A Distilling Company*.

Southern Living and **Visit Panama City Beach** recently hosted a preview party, but the grand opening is coming in May. Check out Facebook and Instagram for more information as well as their website, **www.30adistillingco.com**. The distillery and tasting room are located at 605 N. County Highway 393, Building 15-B, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459. For more information, contact Scott.







The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles

424 Emery Drive
Hoover, Alabama 35244

205-988-8000

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 II
(outdoors first Sunday of April,
May and June)

9:30 am Adult Formation
in the Sanctuary and via Zoom

10:30 am Holy Eucharist II
(with choir and nursery care)

Online Worship: Anytime
on our YouTube Channel
[https://www.youtube.com/c/
HolyApostlesHoover](https://www.youtube.com/c/HolyApostlesHoover)