

The Episcopal
Church of the
**Holy
Apostles**



2023 Parish Profile





WELCOME to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles!

We would love for you to get to know who we are, who we want to be, and our hopes and dreams for the future. We hope that you will read our words and feel the essence of who we are through our pictures and our stories.

*“It is a place where
I feel I can be
myself and
not be judged.
It is a place where
we all are family.”*





Message from our Senior Warden, Richard Eppes

Holy Apostles is by far the most warm, welcoming, and accepting church I have ever experienced. That feeling grabbed me many years ago when my family joined, and we still feel that way today. If you encounter any need or problem in your life, Holy Apostles rallies around you to support and encourage you. I am excited to see where our church is headed next.



Who Are We and What Makes Us Unique?



- If we had only one word to describe our church it would be *LOVE!* We truly love Jesus and each other. We strive to see the best in others. We nurture and support each other in times of need or sorrow. We love and forgive even when it may not be easy.
- All who walk through our front doors are welcome.
- Holy Apostles parishioners generously give their time, talents and treasures.
- Our congregation participates in many ministries both inside and outside our church walls.
- We have an active, engaged community. When there is a need, our parishioners always rise to the occasion.
- Holy Apostles is home to **Little Apostles**, our infant care center. The center is a loving place that nurtures babies and provides peace of mind to new parents.
- We are blessed to be financially solvent, and we have a solid, consistent pledge base.



“Holy Apostles has a congregation that supports you when you are down and celebrates with you when you are happy.

They exemplify being a joyful giver of time, money, prayers, support of numerous ways, all while being a true example of a disciple of Christ. That example and support combined with a common bond in Christ is what has made me stronger in my walk with Christ.”

We have several traditions that are unique to our church and connect us from our beginning through today. Although some of these were put on hold during the pandemic, they are part of who we are and bring us much comfort and joy.

- We love to *Pass the Peace!* You can truly feel the presence of God in our midst.
- We enthusiastically say “*Alleluia, Alleluia*” at the end of every service. In unison, we praise God with our voices, our energy and our shared love of Christ.
- Our children gather at the altar at the end of the service and process out with our clergy. To us, this brings to life the image of children sitting at the feet of Jesus in today’s world.



Our Mission Statement

At the Episcopal Church

of the Holy Apostles,

our mission is to:

praise God,

share the Gospel with joy,

love Christ in every person,

work for justice and peace,

feed the hungry and hungry of heart,

embrace diversity, and

nurture each person's unique gifts

in service of God's Kingdom.





We Want To ...

- Use our strengths, our talents, our energies to change lives through sharing the love and grace of God. We want our church to grow in a way that allows us to retain our spirit of closeness and connection while bringing others into our fold and expanding our shared community in God's love.
- Be good communicators so all feel valued, loved and are actively engaged in our ministries.
- Have a clear vision that leads our actions as we evolve and grow into our best.
- Grow in our stewardship, for each of us to truly know and understand our personal relationship with God.
- Grow in our faith, to strengthen our relationship with God and be His disciple.
- Live out our mission every day.

"We are open in fellowship and ministry to all people regardless of race, gender, etc. and the fluid beliefs of the Episcopal Church. As Bishop Curry says, 'if it's not about love, it's not about God!'"

*“The quality of the music,
both instrumental and
vocal is exceptional!
So much talent and
dedication to celebrating
faith through music.”*



STRENGTHS

Our People

We are united in our love for Holy Apostles. We are welcoming to all, committed, engaged, and ready for our next rector to lead us as we live out who we are called to be.

Our Music

Our choir and choir director are truly amazing. Their gifts add a beauty and spirit to our worship that uplifts our souls, enhances our faith and fills us with joy.

Our Worship

Our Episcopal worship inspires us through the music, sermons, Bible readings, Eucharist and liturgy. Each worship service prepares and encourages us to be better disciples of Jesus.

OPPORTUNITIES

Connecting with the younger generations

Programs for youth, young adults and singles that attract and encourage involvement in church, community, parish ministries and a faith-based life are a priority for growth.

Christian Formation

Teaching, educating and learning how to be better disciples of Christ, how to spread the Word of God, and how to grow in our Christian faith is a major objective of Holy Apostles.

Pastoral Care

How do we reach, help and comfort those who are sick or hurting, those who are alone, and those who feel they have no one to turn to?

“Worshipping alongside other people who are strong in their faith gives me examples of Christ in the world that I can try to emulate into my life.

I feel I have a more servant heart since being here at Holy Apostles.”

*“Holy Apostles draws
me closer to Christ.
I feel at home.”*



WORSHIP

Holy Apostles has two Sunday morning Rite II services. The first service is at 8:30 a.m. (which has been temporarily suspended). The second service begins at 10:30 a.m. and includes music.

MINISTRIES

Our ministries, including Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Crucifer, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, are supported by a diverse group of dedicated, talented parishioners. Everyone in these ministries gives joyfully of their time and talents to both prepare for, and participate in, our services.

MUSIC

One of our parishioners said it best, *“Our music and choir are amazing. Small but mighty, and brings so much to the worship.”* Derek Kluz is our music director.

CAST

Our Care and Support Team, known as CAST, includes our meal ministry, transportation, sitting with, and home Eucharist. This group has been very busy and involved with our parishioners in need.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- We provide Christian Education opportunities throughout the school calendar year.
- Adult Education is held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
- Children’s Sunday School is held at 10:30 a.m. with the children joining the rest of the congregation in the nave for Eucharist
- Tuesday morning Bible Study is a time for indepth discussion.
- Wednesday evening programs are provided at various times of the year.
- Every summer we host an awesome Vacation Bible School and invite the children of the community.



PARISH MINISTRIES

During the month of September, Holy Apostles holds a Ministry Fair following each 10:30 service. A community meal is served on the first Sunday of the fair. Members of the Parish have an opportunity to learn more about our ministry offerings and can sign up to participate in any of the following group or events:

Fellowship Groups

- Daughters of the King (DOK)
- Education for Ministry (EfM)
- Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)
- Book Club
- Taste and See
- Men's Group
- Cursillo
- Supper Clubs
- Apostles With Fire
- OUR Prayer Shawl Ministry

Parish Events

- Annual Parish Retreat
- Taize Vespers
- Coffee Hour
- The Rev. Margaret Hansen Taylor Music Series
- Fifth Sunday Youth Program
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner
- Happening

Outreach Activities and Programs

- Bridge Ministries
- Holy Apostles Lunch Outreach (HALO)
- Bread Ministry
- Monthly Ingatherings
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Trace Crossing Elementary Partnership
- Rise Against Hunger

Right: EfM Graduation



Below: DOK Quiet Day with Christ Church from Fairfield, Alabama



Left : OUR Prayer Shawl Ministry



Above: Holy Apostles members at Cursillo



Right: Apostles with Fire
Below, left: Delivering backpacks to Trace Crossings Elementary School



Above: Summer Concert from The Rev. Margaret Hansen Taylor Music Series



“A shepherd who is touchable and vulnerable. One who can truly be passionate and lead people toward a better relationship with God and our neighbors.”

We Seek A Rector Who ...

- Is passionate about Jesus, the Episcopal Church, and about educating and sharing his/her passion with others. This true passion is reflected in his/her teachings, sermons, spirituality, stewardship, leadership, and care for all parishioners at Holy Apostles.
- Is enthusiastic, full of energy and has a desire to help Holy Apostles grow into what we want and need to be.
- Sees challenges as opportunities, and has a vision and willingness to work to overcome obstacles that will meet any challenge.
- Engages each of us to grow in our faith and truly be the Church that welcomes all and attracts those looking for a new church community.
- Is committed to his/her faith, to Holy Apostles, and to the Episcopal faith.
- Works with diverse personalities and incorporates individual needs while building consensus and community
- Leads, collaborates, challenges, and grows our church and church family.
- Embraces adversity and turns difficult situations into an opportunity to become better disciples of God.

“ ...Preaches sermons illustrating how to become a better disciple of Christ...”



Our Parish History

In 1994, Hoover was one of the ten largest cities in Alabama. A small Episcopal parish existed in the Bluff Park area of Hoover. However, projected population growth seemed to indicate a need for an additional Episcopal Church. In April of that year, Bishop Robert O. Miller called the Reverend Margaret Hanson Taylor to be founding rector of a second Hoover parish.

Reverend Taylor chose *“The Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles”* as the parish name. It was an inclusive name meaning not just the Twelve Apostles, but also includes all those in every generation who have been called by God in baptism and sent out into the world to share His love.

Services began in the summer of 1994 at All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood, Alabama. Over the next nine years of steady growth, services were held at a variety of locations in the Hoover area. Groundbreaking for our permanent home joyfully took place during the month of September, 2002.

The Rt. Reverend Bishop Henry N. Parsley, along with about 250 people, gathered on October 4, 2003, to celebrate the dedication and consecration of Holy Apostles. The Reverend Taylor served as the rector of Holy Apostles from formation of the parish until her retirement in January 2011.

The Reverend Blake Hutson served as the second rector from 2011 through 2022. Throughout Reverend Hutson’s tenure, Holy Apostles strengthened its financial position considerably. In 2014, a capital campaign called *“Lighting the Way”* was started, and that campaign greatly reduced our mortgage by over \$700,000. In 2019 the church began offering infant day care for local residents. During the COVID pandemic, a streaming service of Sunday worship began that continues today.

*“I have attended many churches
but never one that cared
like Holy Apostles.”*

Membership Information

	2019	2020*	2021	2022
Membership	350	355	360	364
Average Sunday Attendance	151	150	84	90
Total Pledging Units	101	101	102	101

* January-February



Where We Are Located

Holy Apostles is located in the Trace Crossings neighborhood of Hoover, Alabama. According to *Livability.com*, Hoover is “a small town with big southern charm” and placed sixth in the best place to live in the southeast. Points of interest include the Riverchase Galleria, a mixed-use shopping, dining, office and hotel development; Moss Rock Preserve, a popular place for hiking; Aldridge Gardens, featuring an art gallery and nature trails; and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Ross Bridge, listed in the top 100 golf courses in America. Also there are a variety of parks and recreation areas throughout Hoover including Veterans Park, Hoover Metropolitan Complex, the Finley Center, Hoover Recreation Center, Hoover Senior Center, Black Mountain Bike Park and Hoover Archery Park.



The Episcopal Church of the
Holy Apostles

424 Emery Drive
 Hoover, Alabama 35244

205-988-8000

www.holyapostleshover.org



The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama



The Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry, Ph.D., is the 12th bishop of the diocese, having been consecrated as bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Alabama on June 27, 2020, and recognized and invested as bishop diocesan on January 9, 2021.

The diocese consists of 88 parishes and worshipping communities and two campus ministry centers. In 2000, the Order of Deacons was reestablished in our diocese. There are now 31 active deacons, with most serving in a parish.

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

Whether you came to this parish profile via a web search, a mailing, or a personal invitation, I am glad that you are here. Now that you have read through these pages prepared by a congregation who is seeking new leadership, I hope that you will sense the warmth of our diocese, the imaginations of our congregations to envision God's dream for themselves and for their neighbors, and the desire to live faithfully into the call of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our diocese stretches north to the banks of the fertile Tennessee River Valley, south to the state capital of Montgomery, west to historic rivers and farms of the Blackbelt and east to the booming Wiregrass Region. Our common life is enriched by a wide diversity of parishes who are drawn together in common prayer, worship, and service. Our history is deep and rich, but we are also boldly leading toward the future as our churches seek to preach the Gospel, welcome the stranger and care for the neighbor in ways both new and old.

As you are discerning the next step in your ministry, know that we are praying for you. If the diocesan office can be of help to you as you look toward the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry