



CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2012

A message from Fr. John Leach:

Dear Parish Family,

As we enter our fourth year together at Holy Apostles, I continue to be thankful and amazed at the ministry we offer within the walls of this church and beyond in the community. Holy Apostles is a vibrant community of faithful people who seek to serve Christ and others through worship, outreach, pastoral care, fellowship events and education for all ages. I am blessed to have a staff of talented and dedicated people who are willing daily to offer their gifts for ministry above and beyond their job descriptions. The reports which follow in this booklet highlight the various ministries at Holy Apostles and bear witness to our response to follow Christ as disciples.

During the past year, our outreach ministry has increased in numerous ways such as the “gift bags” for More Than a Meal on Christmas Day and more participation on Tuesdays at Page Robbins. The Helping Hands mentoring program enters its third year working with young people from Emmanuel Center. Knitting for Need and the Monday sewing group continue to provide scarves, quilts, toys and other items for many in our community who are seeking warmth from the weather as well as the comfort of compassion these items convey.

While we have restructured our ministry to children and youth in terms of leadership, the levels of participation in activities here and at the diocesan level are quite good. From VBS to EYC, we are teaching our children to embrace their relationship with Christ, with each other and we are helping them to find ways to use their gifts for the sake of others.

Our music program and our choir have reached new levels in terms of participation and repertoire. The music in our liturgy enriches our praise of God and beckons us to a deeper connection to God. The generosity which led to the expanded organ speaks to the importance of music in our common prayer.

These are but a few highlights in a great year at Holy Apostles. Thanks to the dedication of so many ministry leaders and to the leadership of the Vestry, ministry is abundant and accessible to all. While our giving in stewardship reached its highest level ever, we also realize that we can and want to do more in making Christ known in east Shelby County. Throughout 2012, the Vestry in consultation with you; will put in place a vision and a strategic plan as we anticipate the 50th anniversary celebration of Holy Apostles in 2015. This effort will shape and inform our common life in the years to come.

In the past year, we have more people attending church on Sunday than any time in the past. We baptized six children, confirmed 12 people, welcomed nearly 40 people as new members and have many other families and individuals who worship here and call Holy Apostles home. Our continued growth reminds us that hospitality is one of Holy Apostles’ defining characteristics.

Thank you for all that you do to share in the ministry of Holy Apostles.

Peace, John+

Acolyte Ministry, Vann Moore, Director

The Acolyte ministry gives youths and young adults the opportunity to be a part of a church's Sunday services. In case you are unfamiliar with the positions, there are the Crucifers that carry the cross, the Torch Bearers (two per service) that carry, of course, the torches, and the Gospel Book Carriers that carry, you guessed it, the Gospel Book. In addition to being a part of the Sunday morning procession, they also perform various duties during the actual service, such as assisting the Rector while preparing for the Eucharist.

At Holy Apostles, the Acolyte ministry is alive and thriving. We have a great group of kids that are dependable, as well as, respectful of the services and duties that they perform. While we did lose some of our Acolytes in 2011 to the college of their choice, we also had some fresh new faces join us. However, we need approximately (50) kids to participate, in order to staff the services appropriately and to accommodate for the kid's busy schedules, outside of church. Today, between our regularly scheduled Acolytes and our list of substitutes, we have (41) positions filled. So, we need about (9) more kids to sign up.

The Acolyte ministry is a vital service to the church, providing for a historical look at our church, giving our youth an opportunity to be a part of the Sunday morning procession and services, and giving them the necessary training and experience to be a part of the church long into their adult years. All kids, six and older, are welcome to be a part of the ministry. Holy Apostles would like to expand the Acolyte ministry, not only for needed current positions, but also to regularly include other positions, such as Banner Carriers. For more information, please contact Vann Moore at (901) 361-2826 or vann.moore@gmail.com.

Altar Guild Ministry, Jean Morris, Chair

What on earth do they do for Heaven's sake?
If they weren't there what difference would it make?
If the weekly team should fail or falter
There'd be no silver or linens on the altar.
The flowers at the altar don't descend from above:
Week after week they're a labor of love.
We change vestments and hangings from season to season
Since those different colors are used for a reason.
The lights burn bright in candlesticks
Because we replenish the oil, we fix the wicks.
We launder the linens. We polish the silver.
We give our time and our talents to church decoration.
In fact, we fill needs of every dimension,
Some are large and important, some too small to mention.
We're seldom noticed, and our rich reward
Is to be Martha and Mary in the house of the Lord.
--Ulele Hamway

Mary Magdalene is often thought of as the patron saint of altar guilds. The duty of the altar guild is to prepare all the things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist or any of the other sacraments and offices of the church. Members of the altar guild should always be mindful of the high privilege of serving God in his sanctuary.

Holy Apostles altar guild is made up of four teams. Each team has five to six members, with a team leader and a designated flower arranger, and linen launderer. Flower arranging and laundering is not a requirement, only if one feels they have a God-given talent for these duties.

A special thank you to Rueben and Trisha Thompson. Reuben and Trisha create a beautiful keepsake Baptismal towel, which is given to the recipient at Baptism.

A special thank you to Phil Irish who faithfully changes the Aumbry candle each Sunday morning.

Flower Guild/Our Little Roses Outreach Ministry, Jean Morris, Chair

Our Little Roses Ministry continues to grow. Last year we donated \$3,600.00. We hope to surpass that amount in 2012.

In June 2004, the altar guild became involved with Our Little Roses Ministries, an Episcopal program established in 1988. Our Little Roses cares for homeless, abused and abandoned girls in the Central American community of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Funded principally from contributions, the ministry offers about 55 girls a safe place to live, a school and training center for learning, a health clinic for medical care and a chapel in which to find Christian fellowship.

The parish's relationship with Our Little Roses broadened in January 2008. A gift from the Outreach Committee in December 2007, began an annual sponsorship in 2008 of one of the ministry's girls, three year old Sindy Vanessa Pineda, and that sponsorship from the flower guild continues to renew each year. Sindy's sponsorship is a yearly donation of \$750.00. Plus, we sent \$850.00 for 20 girls to receive Christmas outfits. We also gave \$300.00 to The Haiti Partnership in honor of Diane Reddoch.

It is through our flower program that we are able to help support this meaningful ministry from your weekly contributions of altar flowers, Easter Lilies, All Saint's Mum's and Poinsettias.

A special thank you to Walter and Nita Dunn who generously donate flowers once a month to Our Little Roses Outreach Program.

A special thank you to Suzanne Hieseman for dismantling the altar flower arrangements every Monday morning. Suzanne then creates a beautiful arrangement for Page Robbins, which she also delivers.

If you have any questions about this ministry or the altar guild, contact Jean Morris at 861-4695 or via email at nannamorris@aol.com.

Bread Bakers, Sue Balogh, Team Leader

The bread we use for communion at Holy Apostles, and which is given to our visitors is given as a gift. It is the result of a small group of people who have helped maintain this tradition that honors the gift given us by Christ.

Early in its history, under the direction of then rector John Rice, Holy Apostles began using handmade bread consistently for communion. The bread was prepared by women who knew how to make bread. Recipes were tried and adjusted. When Father Bob Allen arrived at Holy Apostles in the late 70's, he brought with him the recipe we currently use, and a small team of women was formed to prepare the weekly communion bread. In the 80's, under the rector ship of Robert Certain, we began preparing and using visitor's bread. Many people have been welcomed to Holy Apostles through this gift.

Over the years, many have continued this gift – men, women and families. Currently, nine communicants prepare the bread for the congregation each week. Maggie Beason, Clint Bratton, Carole Capra, Gaylann Hicks, Mike Marshall, Raeleen Roberts, Reuben Thompson and Sue Balogh. Recently we welcomed the newest member to our team, Peter Lutrick. We thank them for sustaining this tradition of Holy Apostles.

If you would like to become or break baker, or have any questions, please contact Sue Balogh at 365-6461 or via e-mail at scbalogh@gmail.com.

Building and Grounds, Phil Irish, Chair

Our committee is responsible for the "physical plant" that houses Holy Apostles. We are supervisory for the most part, but do many small tasks "hands on" as well. Buildings and Grounds oversees the contracts for maintaining our lawn and plantings, quarterly service and upkeep of our HVAC equipment, termite inspection and interior pest control, State safety and fire equipment inspections, alarm system monitoring, etc.

We are also involved in arranging maintenance issues such floor waxing, window washing and other projects that fall outside the weekly or monthly schedule as well.

Small "emergency" repairs are ours to handle as well. These sorts of items is where the "hands on" begins and extends to: a several member "informal subcommittee" that cares for the courtyard flowers, plants and fountain, repairs of our cathedral chairs as use and drying glue dictate, and the ongoing need to rearrange the chairs and tables to support the ever changing, weekly activities in the PLC.

Additional attention to our grounds and plantings will be one of our focal points this year.

Participation in our "special call out list" is a way to be involved with Buildings and Grounds on an irregular basis which we invite everyone to consider. It enables us to "step up" whenever needed, to keep Holy Apostles moving forward.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, or have any questions, please contact Phil Irish at 853-376 or via e-mail at hmpirish@bellsouth.net.

Children's Ministries, Penny Goldberg, Director of Christian Education

Sunday School In August 2011 we began using *Weaving God's Promises*, This curriculum was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It's titled Weaving God's Promises after the process of faith formation in which we learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives. The goal of Weaving God's Promises is to teach children the way of Christ, not only in the church but also in the world, and to give them a solid grounding for future youth formation programs, which in turn will prepare them for Christian adulthood. Weaving God's Promises provides children with basic knowledge of Church teachings in the three elements essential to the practice of our faith. Each is dependent on the other in order for the faith to stand firmly: 1.Christian education 2.Worship 3.Service. We have several wonderful teachers this year, many new to teaching at Holy Apostles. They are: Maggie Beason, Lisa Morris and Jennifer Parr who teach PreK(4) & Kindergarten, Taylor Beasley and Laura Beasley, who teach the 1st and 2nd Grade and Sally Barron and Teresa Davis , who teach the 3rd and 4th Grade.

Children's Chapel Children's Chapel had renewed enthusiasm in 2011 with an increase in attendance! We continued with our year-round, Lectionary-based age appropriate curriculum called *Celebrate the*

Good News. Volunteers lead the children out at the Gospel hymn and they return to rejoin their parents in the Nave at the peace. This vital ministry not only serves our parishioners but visitors as well as is led by twelve parishioners: Mary Layne Beason, Claire Boals, Chapman Finn, Mason Goldberg, Penny Goldberg, Kimberly Jordan, George Kawell, Jr., Ari Litvin, Kristen Litvin, Tracey McDaniel, Eugene Tarjan and Lisa Tarjan.

Busy Bag Program We continued the simple, but successful creation of “busy bags” for children to use during worship services. These bags contain quiet toys and activities and help our youngest parishioners enjoy the worship service as well.

Vacation Bible School Children’s Ministries had an amazing year! Our PandaMania Vacation Bible School had 60 energetic students and more than 40 amazing volunteers from our parish. This continues to be one of our largest events involving both parishioners and non-parishioners.

Rally Day We continued our Kick Off Carnival for our children during Rally Day. Thirty or more children braved the heat to join us in front of the church to play carnival games like fishing, bean bag toss, knocking down bottles, a ring toss, a bounce house with a slide and more! Fun was had by all!

Mardi Gras Parade As part of the Shrove Tuesday festivities, we continued our Mardi Gras Parade. Over 20 children decorated their trikes, bikes and wagons to race from the PLC to the Nave. Usually we race in the parking lot grabbing and tossing beads as we headed into the Nave to sing out the Alleluias, but the rain forced us inside, but in no way did it didn’t dampen our spirits! Crafts, activities and delicious pancakes prepared and served by the youth rounded out this fun day!

Introduction to Communion Class This class is held for children in grades 3 and below, and is led by Fr. John in the Nave. Children learn what we do in Church and why we do it.

Advent Festival This year we had our Third Advent Festival, where children, youth and adults came together to begin the season of anticipation. As part of the festivities we held a chili cook-off where different committee’s and individuals competed for coveted titles and had a lot of fun doing so! There were many activities for children, including wreath making, Chrismon ornament making, and parishioners could also choose a child off the Angel tree. This event was a remarkable success do to all the volunteers and participants!

Lenten Series For five weeks during Lent, we held a Lenten Series for all ages. Children met in the classrooms for a brief lesson, a fun activity and ended with Children’s Compline.

Christmas Pageant Christmas Eve at the 5:00p.m. service, more than 25 children of the parish presented a simple, but beautiful, story of the birth of Jesus. The children practiced one Sunday for an hour and before the pageant for an hour and put on an impressive reenactment of Jesus’s Birth. Children were able to participate in a variety of roles from lectors, actors, or non-speaking parts. Our talented Youth served as producers of the pageant and many parents assisted with direction, costuming and more. All of the participants did a wonderful job!

Episcopal Church Women, Ellen Barry, President

Holy Apostles concluded the 2010/2011 ECW calendar year with an evening meeting, featuring Mrs. Jean Avery Johnson as speaker. Mrs. Johnson presented an inspirational program focusing on "Appreciative Inquiry" and optimism. In conjunction with these themes, Holy Apostles ECW members agreed upon three primary objectives for our ECW; fellowship, friendship, and helping others through Outreach. Jeanette Maddox was elected Treasurer, Jenny Faverty was elected Secretary, and I was introduced as

President. Mary Jane Anderson, Lorena Sappington, Courtney Dukes, Franny Kavin, Cheri Brittain, Bonnie Barnes, Gayle Shaffer, and Carole Capra were recognized for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. The evening concluded with a delicious dinner and beautiful floral arrangements provided by our Host Committee.

On June 11, 2011, Holy Apostles ECW and Holy Apostles Outreach Committee coordinated an End-of-the-Year Brunch for the children, families and mentors of Holy Apostles Helping Hands program. The Brunch was an expression of appreciation, and represented a cumulative effort by many members to provide a breakfast of good food, pretty flowers, and fellowship for the Helping Hands participants. A less formal breakfast was provided for the Helping Hands program on November 6, 2011. Additional breakfasts will be organized in the upcoming year.

Jeanette Maddox represented ECW at Rally Day on August 14, answered questions regarding ECW and provided information to members and prospective members.

ECW members participated with Outreach by volunteering to help with troop support efforts during the summer and fall. Lee Carpenter and Barbara Olive organized and co-chaired the second annual Holy Home Cookin' event on Sunday, November 13, 2011. This very successful event raised funds for the Emmanuel Episcopal Center. Proposed future ECW goals include supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and The Church Health Center.

Friendship and fellowship are encouraged each month at the Holy Apostles ECW Out-To-Dinner group, organized by Bonnie Barnes. The members enjoy fellowship and the opportunity to spend time together.

Plans for additional meetings and activities include a variety of new ideas and concepts. ECW is planning a fellowship trip for members and guests to visit Rowan Oak in Oxford, Mississippi in 2012. This trip will include after touring William Faulkner's home and lunch at City Grocery.

The ECW continues to evolve, and we encourage any of the women of Holy Apostles, 18 years or older to join us in our meetings and events. Please contact Ellen Barry at 237-9615 or via e-mail at EJBSandy@aol.com for additional information.

Eucharistic Ministers, Bob Bennett, Director

Two of the most fulfilling experiences I have had in my life both occurred in church. One is teaching Sunday school to the youth; helping them in their journey of understanding. More importantly, being able to live the lessons taught to us by Jesus Christ is a blessing in that it helps me become a better Christian myself.

The other experience is serving as a Eucharistic Minister. A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person appointed by a member of the Clergy and licensed by the Bishop, who is authorized to administer the consecrated sacraments, that is, the bread and wine, at a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and/or to the home-bound. All who attend the church service have accepted Christ's invitation to His great banquet. It is the honor of the Eucharistic Minister to offer the food and drink that each person consciously and deliberately receives to satisfy his/her hunger and thirst for God. What greater responsibility, and what greater feeling, is there than being trusted to share the Body and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ?

We currently have 19 dedicated individuals in our Parish who serve God and the Church in this role. They are some of the individuals I admire the most in life and I cannot thank them enough for their leadership, participation and friendship. We would love to have you join us on this team. The 'hours' are flexible (you choose the dates and services you are available and are willing to serve); the mastery of the role is

easy (training programs and ‘buddies’ are provided); and the pay is priceless (God’s love, peace and grace).

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or serving in this capacity, please contact Bob Bennett at 954-557-7775 or via e-mail at bennettgb@aol.com; as God would say, “Call now, the lines are always open!”

Finance Committee Annual Report, Kevin Reynolds, Chair

2011 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Cary Barnes (Treasurer), Kevin Edwards, Richard Finch, Mark Harris, Phil Irish, Holly McDaniel (Parish Administrator), the Rev. John Leach (Rector), Kevin Reynolds (Chair), and John Terry.

Note: Monthly Treasurer’s Report, Balance Sheets and Committee Reports are available in the parish office for your review.

2011 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – Holy Apostles financial performance in 2011 was solid, as we ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$30,000. Although total receipts came in slightly under the 2011 budget, the staff of Holy Apostles did an admirable job of managing expenses well below the budgeted amount. Receipts totaled \$579,325, (up from \$535,807 in 2010) versus a 2011 budget of \$587,414. Total pledge receipts of \$468,283 (including pre-paid pledge) came in below the budget of \$489,000 (based on 114 pledging units, up from 111 pledging units in 2010), but plate non-pledge income of \$69,161 exceeded the \$60,000 budgeted amount. In addition, actual operating expenses of \$549,399 were approximately \$54,452 below the approved expense budget of \$603,852, due in part to the delay in the start of an ordained associate to Father John until mid-2012. Church Home Grant funds of approximately \$34,000 were used for children and youth Christian Education leadership, which effectively exhausts this source of funds as we enter 2012. The Aggregate Operating Reserve ended the year at \$109,538, up from \$54,500 at year-end 2010.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Reynolds at 850-0963 or via e-mail at kevreyn@comcast.net.

Hospitality Team, John Wasilik, Chair

The Holy Apostles Hospitality Team is a group of great people who provide the “yummies” and prepare the beverages we all enjoy during the Fellowship period in the Parish Life Center following the Sunday early worship service. Work on the Hospitality team is fun, easy and inexpensive!!

We have two roles – setup and food providers – and members have their choice of doing either one. A setup person makes coffee/lemonade/ice water and wheels it out on a rolling cart prior to the Fellowship period. A food provider prepares or purchases various food items and sets them out on a table in the PLC. At the end of the Fellowship period, the setup person cleans up and stores the coffee pots, etc. in the kitchen.

We make out schedules in advance covering a six month period. Setup people are scheduled about once per eight weeks, and food providers serve about six times per year. Out of pocket cost is very modest. Since the Church provides the beverages, cups and plates, there is no cost associated with the setup role. Food providers are asked to limit their expenses to a maximum of \$20 (less is fine) each time they serve.

Training for new people is “on the job” with an experienced member. Since the duties are straightforward, there is little startup time needed. New members contribute immediately. The food

provider role can be done at the same time as any other Sunday ministry, since the only duty is to bring and set out the “yummies”.

Food service and setup/cleanup for special celebrations - such as a visit by the Bishop - is also coordinated by the Hospitality committee. For these events, we reach out to other members of the Parish to assist in preparing a variety of delicious finger sandwiches and desserts for the occasion.

Our annual budget, paid by the Church, is \$2,000.00, which covers coffee/lemonade and miscellaneous items as plates and utensils.

We're *always* looking for new members, so if you're interested in a fun, easy and low-cost way to make a very positive impact at Holy Apostles, see John Wasilik or Marianne Waszilycsak – we'd love to have you as part of our team! John can be reached at 826-5333 or via e-mail at kiteman45@bellsouth.net and Marianne can be reached at 737-1576 or via e-mail at gwaszil1@comcast.net.

Koinonia, Tasha Kawell, Chair

The groups of Koinonia are wrapping up for 2011. With almost 50 families participating, the experience has included great fellowship and food. Many of the groups invited additional families to their dinners expanding their groups and reaching out to others. What a wonderful way to connect and get to know others in our growing congregation.

Koinonia will start up again in August and we have three group offerings for folks wanting to participate:

Gathering of Grownups

Join this group for that relaxed dinner atmosphere in the comfort of someone's home. Make this your monthly outing, leaving your children and grandchildren home, getting out for adult fellowship and great food. Participate in one of the best ways to make new friends at Holy Apostles. Open to all ages of adults who want to share a meal at home.

Need a sitter? No need here!

Join this group if you want more of a family atmosphere with children and grandchildren always invited, but never required. Enjoy the company of others and delicious food while in the comfort of someone's home. This is a perfect way to get out monthly with others and to meet your fellow parishioners. You will find your family in Christ here! All ages encouraged and having children is not a requirement!

Date Night Out!

Just want to get out and have fellowship with the family of Holy Apostles? Join this group and meet monthly at a variety of restaurants. Avoid the mess and cleanup. Or maybe you are not the best cook? Discover new restaurants! This is a great way for adults to gather and get to know one another in Christ. Open to all ages of adults.

Please contact Tasha Kawell for additional information. Tasha can be reached at 598-0905 or via e-mail at gshotarget@aol.com.

Lector and Intercessor Ministry, Robyn Sharp, Chair

Thank you to the 20+ volunteers who are members of the Lector and Intercessor Ministry at Holy Apostles. In 2011, I took over the reins as chair from Amelia Johnson who provided some very large shoes to fill. Thank you Amelia for your tireless commitment to this ministry and for establishing many

of the processes that we hope to continue to joyfully execute while providing illumination to the reading of God's word.

As a review, an Intercessor is a member of the congregation who reads the "Prayers of the People". A Lector is a member of the congregation who reads the Old Testament, Psalm, and Epistle readings during church services. Every Holy Apostles' Lay Reader is strongly encouraged to practice their readings in advance. For those difficult biblical personal and place names, a pronunciations guide is linked to the church website. The RCL or Revised Common Lectionary link is also available on the Holy Apostles' website. Anyone who wishes to know the readings for an upcoming week needs only click on this link to find them.

Our Lectors and Intercessors are a diverse dedicated group whom many also serve Holy Apostles in other capacities from serving on the Vestry to singing in the choir to participating in other critical ministries. They are our own liturgical "saints", and they provide lay participation and engagement to our worship services.

"You can meet them in school, or in lanes or at sea, in church, or in trains or in shops or at tea...." We encourage all who are interested, to be one too. Feel free to contact Robyn Sharp for more information. Robyn can be reached at 490-2419 or via e-mail at robyn.sharp@ipaper.com.

Men of Holy Apostles, Glenn Hopper, President

The Men of Holy Apostles Group is comprised of all men, 18 or older, attending Holy Apostles. This past year our group added events in addition to the regular Tuesday Night Basketball pickup games. Tom Carpenter stepped up and did a great job planning a couple of First Class golf outings and our Manly Movie Night (First Thursday of every month) is definitely building momentum. Attendance has grown every month and it has been great to get to know more people outside of Sunday mornings. A special thank you to everyone who helped with the Pergola Project by the children's playground, the structure will stand as a great donation of the time and talent of many volunteers in the Men's Group.

Here is a short list of Men's Group goals for 2012:

1. We need a volunteer to help plan a monthly or quarterly Men's Group Dinner night.
2. We are looking for community service projects.
3. We are planning a BBQ fundraiser.
4. We are currently gauging interest in a paint ball outing.
5. Development of a Men's Group Steering Committee.
6. Development of an annual Men's Group weekend retreat.
7. Development of an annual Men's group cook-out.

If you are not on the e-mail distribution list for Men's Group notices please contact Glenn Hopper at 461-5152 or glennhopper@bellsouth.net. If you are not already a member of the Men's Group we encourage you to attend. We would also ask existing members to consider increasing your level of participation to make 2012 the Best Year ever for the Holy Apostles Men's Group!

Monday Sewing Group by Pat Wasilik

The Sewing Group meets every Monday when the Church is open from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. We are an open neighborhood handwork group encompassing members of the parish

and the community who share a common interest. The attendance is usually about 10, with a breakdown of ~50% women of the Parish and ~50% from other churches.

Individually, and as a group, we travelled to the Paducah Quilt Show in KY, the Quilt Show at the Davies Plantation and the "Holly Hunter Quilting Seminar" in Jackson, TN.

Our work is primarily oriented to outreach activities. For example, this year 100 babies' and children's knitted hats were made and donated to St. Jude Hospital, 50 to Orange Mound Outreach Program, and 50 to the Memphis Family Shelter. Additionally 114 cotton dresses were made and donated to the Haitian Orphanage through the Episcopal Development Fund. Fabric, threads and ribbons were collected and donated to the Covenant Methodist Hand Quilting Saturday Outreach. Various auction purses and totes were made and donated to the New Mexico Indian Outreach.

We are self-contained and require no parish monetary support. There are no budget requirements and all donations are philanthropic. In 2012 we intend to continue our outreach missions. Any support, either through participation or donation of fabric is always appreciated. Please contact Pat Wasilik if you would like additional information regarding this group. Pat can be reached at 832-8585 or via e-mail at wasilik@bellsouth.net.

Music Department, Kristin Lensch, Organist-Choirmaster

Tom Carpenter, Director, Boys and Girls Choir through May, 2011

Holy Apostles currently has two choirs:

1. Adult Choir, directed by Kristin Lensch
Wednesday night rehearsals, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
leads 9:00 a.m. Sunday services and special services as they arise
2. Boys and Girls Choir, directed by Kristin Lensch
Wednesday night rehearsals, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
sings twice a month at the 9:00 a.m. service, occasionally at the 11:15.
Through May, 2011, this choir was directed by Tom Carpenter and
sang once a month, alternating between the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services

A team of musicians leads the 5:15 p.m. Bluegrass Mass weekly.

The Adult Choir is comprised of twenty-two voices. Rehearsing music that is liturgically appropriate for services each week, the emphasis is on using our gifts to enhance worship with quality music performed musically, to the best of our abilities. Social gatherings occur each month, to encourage a strong, cohesive, supportive group within the larger church body. We have added one staff singer, Jim Peebles, to add vocal leadership to the bass section. The Boys and Girls Choir has seven singers who rehearse together an hour a week, learning anthems, hymns, descants, music theory and elements of Christian education. They sing regularly with the Adult Choir at the 9:00 a.m. service. We're always glad to add more choristers through the year.

With the lack of a regular practicing choir for the 11:15 a.m. service, a variety of musical leadership was offered. Instrumentalists from the community were brought in once a month to provide music to offer variety. Members of the Adult Choir also continued to offer "double duty" by singing two services to offer vocal support to the later service as individuals were able. In addition, the Boys and Girls Choir occasionally offered musical leadership.

With the generosity of an anonymous donor and the R. G. Capra Organs, Inc., our pipe organ was expanded to a total of 63 ranks during October and November. It was blessed on Sunday, November 13. Several recitals will be given on this larger instrument in 2012.

We hosted a concert given by the University Singers of The University of Memphis on Sunday, February 27.

New purchases include choral and instrumental music and music learning aids for the Boys and Girls Choir.

I have been privileged to work with the dedicated choir members, and I am fortunate to have had the assistance of Tom Carpenter as director of the Boys and Girls Choir in the first part of the year, and Susan Squillaciotti's assistance with the choir library. It is exciting to be at this vibrant and generous parish, and I look forward to continued service as your Organist-Choirmaster.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Lensch
937-3830
Kristin@holypostlestn.net

Newcomers Committee, Lee Carpenter & Marianne Waszilycsak, Co-Chairs

The Newcomers committee is comprised of two chairpersons and about ten active committee members.

Our committee is responsible for making church visitors feel welcome, providing information about the church, and introducing new members to other parishioners in an effort to get them involved in church activities. We accomplish our responsibilities by:

- Providing welcome bags that have a loaf of our wonderful communion bread, a current newsletter, and a welcome brochure that has information on the church. These bags are distributed by the ushers to visitors as they leave the church
- We have 3-4 receptions each year at the home of John and Lisa Leach where newcomers are invited as "guests of honor" and encouraged to get to know the Vestry, Newcomers committee members, and Fr. John.
- Updating our "New to our Flock" picture frames with pictures of our new families so that parishioners are able to put a name with a face.

In 2011, we had 3 Newcomers receptions: January 18th and April 26th (Newcomers and recently confirmed/accepted), and September 29th.

Our next Newcomers reception will be January 26th at John and Lisa Leach's house. Vestry and Newcomers committee members are encouraged to attend (be there by 6:15 please!) and bring an appetizer. Newcomers are to arrive at 6:30 pm.

The Newcomers Committee features one Newcomer family or couple in The Acts newsletter. Updated pictures are placed in the frames in the hallway after each reception. These are great ways for everyone to get to know the newest members of our church, and possibly find out they have something in common!

Our church is blessed with friendly parishioners who go overboard welcoming visitors – it makes the Newcomers committee's job much easier! Keep up the good work!

If you would like to be part of this ministry, or have any questions, please contact Lee Carpenter at 861-9886 or via e-mail at c_tomlee@bellsouth.net or Marianne Waszilycsak at 737-1576 or via e-mail at gwaszil1@comcast.net.

Outreach Ministry, Lesley Cullen, Chair

Helping Hands mentoring program has continued to mentor four middle school and high school students since 2009. We continue to have two monthly sessions with them at Holy Apostles to review school work and encourage them to meet their goals. In the summer our group visited International Paper's Headquarters in Memphis and enjoyed meeting the personnel and hearing about different career possibilities. In addition to that, we arranged a tour of the Memphis Police Department on Airways, one of the most modern of the precincts. During the 2 ½ hour tour of MPD, we were introduced to the community outreach director, the Colonel of that precinct, several on duty police officers as well as members of the SWAT team.

Holy Apostles hosted the parents of the mentees for a delicious brunch that was prepared by the ECW. During this event we were able to get acquainted with the parents of each student and work with them to set goals for the year. Also, during the summer, two college students tutored two of our students for several hours each week. Claudia and John Sims hosted the entire group of adults and youth at their home for a pool party.

During the year, we had members of outreach participate in the Safeguarding God's Children training session at Holy Communion.

For the fourth year during Lent, and as an expression of faith, the Outreach Committee invited the parish to bring canned and dry goods to church to support **Collierville Food Pantry**.

Dedicated knitters and crocheters from the church have formed a group Knitting for Need and have been quite productive of all things handmade. This past November a large donation of 5 baskets full of knit hats, scarves and dolls was donated to a local hospital.

After delivering and packing items for **Mississippi Project Package** in June, our group from Holy Apostles wanted the opportunity to participate more than just once a year. This time, instead of collecting items, two groups of Holy Apostle Volunteers went to Southaven to help pack items donated by other groups and then ready the packages for mailing on Thursday, October 20, and Thursday, October 27, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Our group included Frank and Judy Potter, Gaylann Hicks, Ellen Barry, Bryce Smith, Marty Kruchten, Lesley Cullen, Tasha Kawell, Pat Wasilik, Mike and Donna Baldrige, Suzanne Hieserman, Laura Lutrick, Maggie Beason and Pamela Douglas.

The outreach committee hosted two summer cookouts for the **Page Robbins Center**. Volunteers provided food and then spent time visiting the residents.

Diane Reddoch took over for Mary Ann Thompson as volunteer coordinator at Holy Apostles for **More Than a Meal** at Grace St. Luke's. During the month of December, our church collected and donated travel size personal hygiene items as an offering to the guests.

This was the second year the ECW, Barbara Olive, Lee Carpenter and Marianne Waszilycsak along with fantastic bakers and cooks from our church prepared tasty food for a fabulous **Holy Home Cookin' project!** Every delicious item available was purchased by our wonderful and giving parishioners. A donation for \$1,030.00 was made to the Outreach Committee to benefit Emmanuel Center and Helping Hands.

In 2011, **Operation Backpack** proved to be a successful and joyful time at the Emmanuel Episcopal Center on July 29th and 30th. With the creation of a store-like environment, the children were able to choose their supplies while sharing time with some of the people that took time to be there. Everyone had a chance to be involved in some way to fill backpacks for over 360 students from kindergarten to seniors. After filling their backpack and checking out they were able to sit and share a healthy snack with a volunteer. Holy Apostles was well represented with over thirteen families present. On Friday, the unpacking and organizing day, we had tremendous help from Tricia and Rueben Thompson, Barbara and Ray Fenner, Bryce Smith, Betsy Schwindt, and Tasha Kawell just to name a few. On Saturday some of the people were, Mike and Zoe Marshall and Harrison and Nick, Bryce Smith, Susan Squillacioti and Elizabeth, Louise and Jay Beidenharn, Alice Finn and Chapman and Mary Courtney, Tasha Kawell and Brian Massey (our photographer). The children of Holy Apostles were our shining star as they lead the children through the line, making conversation and double checking the supply list as they went along.

Our parishioners selected 25 children's names from the **Angel Tree at the Advent Festival** in November, bought gifts, wrapped them and brought them to church. Gifts collected were picked up by the Emmanuel Center and handed out to the children. Thanks to Bonnie Barnes and Jane Harris for being in charge of this event.

Our parish donated dry and canned goods for the **Collierville Food Pantry** during the months of November and December. Volunteers from Holy Apostles worked at the food bank during the month of December.

In addition to the above ministries, Holy Apostles gave grants to the following charities: Church Health Center, Page Robbins, Emmanuel Episcopal Center, Grace St. Luke's, Episcopal Relief and Development, More Than a Meal, Collierville Literacy and Helping Hands.

We also welcomed Pat Wasilik to the outreach committee and said goodbye to Jennifer Warrillow, who moved to North Carolina.

A special thanks to Courtney Dukes for organizing All Saints Open Charity Tennis Event to benefit Emmanuel Episcopal Center. Parishioners, friends and guest gathered for a friendly tennis round robin and a check for \$ 350.00 was donated to the Outreach Committee.

Holy Apostles outreach remains committed to providing hope, encouragement and love to the young people participating in Helping Hands Mentoring and will continue to focus our efforts to volunteering and helping charities meet the needs within our community as well as promoting and supporting effective outreach programs. If you would like to become a part of the outreach committee or have any questions please contact Lesley Cullen at 497-0247 or via e-mail at lscullen11@aol.com.

Pastoral Care Committee, Betsy Leslie, Chair

At Holy Apostles, the Pastoral Care Committee is a team ministry including clergy and parishioners working together. This committee is all about supporting one another during life transitions: births, deaths, major surgery or illness. Support includes prayer, preparing and/or delivering food or flowers, sending cards or notes, phone calls and visits, providing transportation to church services or doctor appointments, and arranging for a Eucharistic visit (working with Bob Bennett, Eucharistic Minister Director, to engage volunteers).

Pastoral Care Committee is organized in three teams with two co-leads for each team. Every month one team is "on call" to meet pastoral care needs of the parish. Father John provides the committee input on

who may need support. Additional input on needs within the parish can and should come directly from fellow parishioners. Once our co-leads are aware of a pastoral care need, they reach out to the parishioner to let them know we are praying for them, and asking what specific support we can provide. We recognize that during difficult times, it is hard to know what others can do, but we want folks to know that we are ready to help.

It is only natural for us to be most comfortable asking for help from someone we know. Therefore, the pastoral care committee engages other committees and groups across the church (Koinonia groups, choir, outreach committee, the sewing group, etc.) to help us understand an individual's need for support. If someone is in need and is already participating with a group from Holy Apostles in another ministry, we draw upon the connection to most effectively provide support.

During 2011, the Pastoral Care Committee reached out to over 50 parishioners during times of need. I would like to offer a special note of thanks to all the pastoral care team members who make this ministry successful. They are the helping hands reaching out to the Holy Apostles family with specific prayer, care and support.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, or have any questions, please contact Betsy Leslie at 854-7158 or via e-mail at elizabeth.leslie@ipaper.com.

Recreation Committee, John Sims, Chair

The purpose of the recreation committee is to provide the opportunity for fellowship both among Holy Apostles parishioners and between Holy Apostles and the community. We aim to build programs for all ages. The following activities were coordinated by the Recreation Committee:

- Men's basketball every Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9:00
- We had one youth basketball team representing Holy Apostles that played in the ESCRA youth league during the 2011-2012 basketball season.
- Holy Apostles is hosting CrossCheck basketball league games for nine Saturdays during the 2011-2012 basketball season. By the end of the season, 39 games will have been played in the PLC. This provided a great opportunity for the youth group to raise money from the concession stand they operated during the games.
- We were able to provide a practice spot for a Houston High School basketball team when their gym floor was damaged by water.
- An all-levels yoga class is being offered in the PLC on Friday mornings at 9:30 and is open to the public.

If you would like to use the Parish Life Center, please contact Holly McDaniel to reserve your time. Holly can be reached at holly@holypostlestn.net.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, or have any questions, please contact John Sims 751-0221 or via e-mail at john.sims@ipaper.com.

Saints Alive! Courtney Dukes, Chair

Saints Alive is a wonderful opportunity for the adults of Holy Apostles to gather for good food, great fun and meaningful fellowship. We kicked off the year in style at the home of Carol and Ben Wingfield. In May we spent a lovely evening with Angela and Kevin Reynolds. We celebrated a special Saints Alive in June during the Parish Retreat at St. Columba. September introduced a new activity as we hosted our first

Trivia Night with a huge crowd in the Parish Life Center. We enjoyed a very merry Advent in December with Lisa and John Leach.

2011 brought the return of the Holy Apostles parish retreat at St. Columba Retreat and Conference Center and provided a wonderful weekend of fellowship, sun, fun and activities for nearly 50 parishioners - young and old! The weekend began with a Trivia DJ, where teams of adults learned more about each other as they competed on trivia questions, all vying for bragging rights and memorable prizes. On Saturday, while the children and young people had age appropriate activities, the adults discussed the role of faith in their lives and its importance in the parish formation process. Afternoon activities included golf instruction, fishing, swimming, boating, flower arranging, knitting and mixed media art creation. Later that evening, guests enjoyed a bonfire and s'mores. The retreat concluded with an outdoor Bluegrass Mass at the St. Francis Chapel overlooking the lake. St. Columba made a perfect setting for a fun-filled and spiritual weekend.

We hope all adults of the parish will plan to attend our next event on Saturday, February 18th at the home of Alice and Curtis Finn. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert and choice of beverage. Hosts will provide paper products and soft drinks.

Please watch the newsletter and service leaflets for upcoming events and feel free to contact Courtney Dukes at csdukes@live.com with any questions.

Usher Report, Mary Jane Hatley, Chair

2011 was my first year to serve as Chairperson for our Usher group. First, I want to thank all the volunteers for their willingness to serve in this function on a monthly basis. I especially want to thank those who have been kind enough to "fill in" at the last moment due to an emergency absence.

In 2011, we had three new volunteers to our usher team. They were Phillip Austin, Mike Cafferty and Frank Cianciola. They have been important additions to our usher team. If you are interested in serving as an usher please contact me in person, at 336-5109 or mjhatley@yahoo.com. The duties include; greeting all members and visitors, passing out service sheets, giving visitors information and assistance, taking up the offering and directing attendees for Communion.

Youth Ministry, Penny Goldberg, Director of Christian Education

Sunday School In September 2008, all youth began *Journey to Adulthood*, a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 7th-12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities divided into three sections Rite 13, J2A and YAC. We are in our fourth year using this program. In fall of 2010 we incorporated *Making It Real and Relevant* for our Sr. High Class.

Rite13 This incredible bunch of Middle Schoolers, led by Anna Underwood, James Underwood and Jay Biedenharn in the Winter of 2011 and now led by John Paul Kavin and Tasha Kawell, began the year getting to know each other and developing their own group norms. They have worked together on such topics as "I am Made in the Image of God", "Talking to God, Listening to God-The Lord's Prayer", "What is All Saints Anyway" as well as many more. Six youth in the class participated in the Rite 13 Liturgy in 2011. They also are continuing to raise money for their trip to New York City in the summer of 2013.

J2A This amazing group of High Schoolers, led by Matt Stone, Jessica Stone, Paula Vaughan and Jay Biedenharn in the Winter of 2011 and now by Penny Goldberg and Paula Vaughan, also began the year by getting to know each other and developing their own classroom rules and expectations. They are

enjoying the Lectionary-Based *Making It Real and Relevant*, which utilizes movie and song clips to hash out the reading of the day. They also are continuing to raise money for their trip to New York City in the summer of 2013.

Club 56 This energetic bunch of fifth and sixth graders is led by Jenny Boals, Jane Edwards and Kevin Edwards for the third year in a row! For Sunday School they continued using *Live It!*, which is a tween resource designed to help tweens face today's issues with a real understanding of how their faith impacts their lives every day. *Live It!* will help tweens develop meaningful relationships with family, friends, and most importantly, Jesus Christ. It will also help them develop the skills they need to make godly decisions in today's world.

EYC: Episcopal Youth Community We meet each Sunday to have food, fellowship and fun! Some of our activities have been: a Giant Slip and Slide; making sandwiches and serving clients of More Than a Meal; going to the Corn maze; bowling at Funquest; watching movies; disk Golf; and Parent Appreciation Night just to name a few!

As well as our weekly meetings, we held two Lock-In's, one with St. Philip, a Rake and Run, where we planted pansies around the church grounds, The Fall Kick Off, Youth Sunday, a variety of Diocesan Youth events, including Bishop's Bash, Feast of Lights and Happening as well as helping with VBS, the Collierville Community Garden and much more!

Tween Activities This group of 5th & 6th has been meeting once a month, since the Fall of 2009, for youth activities like Bowling, The Corn maze, Human Checkers and The Scooter Extravaganza!! 2011 was our third year with Club 56 and it has been a wonderfully successful group!

Fundraisers We participated in many fundraisers this year including The Souper Bowl of Caring, where we raised more than \$400.00 for MIFA, The Advent Festival, where we raised \$800 for the Pilgrimage Fund, and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, where we raised \$800.00, also for the Pilgrimage Fund. Thank you to all those who participated and donated in these fun events!

Confirmation Three Youth were confirmed in 2011. We used the program *Keeping the Promise*, which is a mentoring program for Confirmation in the Episcopal Church. This unique program pairs each perspective Confirmand with a Confirmed adult mentor, who gives the Confirmand caring support throughout the learning process. With the younger and older Christians working together, the common inheritance of the Christian Faith can be fully explored on a personal basis. Teenagers connect with the traditions of the Episcopal Church and with the mentors, who create an environment that is relaxed, where confidence can grow and learning can occur. The youth pick their mentor, complete a service activity and meet with the Rector to discuss what they have learned prior to Confirmation. Youth are eligible for confirmation between ninth and tenth grade.

Mission Trip This year 20 Youth and three Adults took a Pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico. We stayed at Camp Stoney, visited all the historical Churches in Santa Fe, went whitewater rafting, stargazing in the hills, completed high and low ropes courses and ended the trip with a day at Chimayo, where we visited El Santuario de Chimayo, which is believed to be a holy site with healing powers.

Change in Staff August of 2010, Jay Biedenharn joined our staff as Pastoral Associate and Director of all things related to EYC. Penny Goldberg was our part-time Director of Christian Education in charge of all things related to Children and Sunday school. Kelly Gillian was our Youth Assistant and Mathew Jehl was our Youth Intern. Jay's presence, time and talent were a wonderful addition to our program in 2011 however Jay has since joined the staff at St. John's, Kelly graduated from Rhodes College and has moved on to teaching, and Matthew concluded his time with us so that he could give more attention to his college studies. We wish them all the best! Penny is now in charge of all things Children and Youth.