

HOLY APOSTLES



CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2010

A message from Fr. John Leach:

Dear Friends,

Having completed a full year as your Rector, I am privileged to serve in this very special faith community. Challenges in 2009, presented opportunities for us to reexamine our Mission Statement to consider the ways we minister, the programs we offer, and priorities in serving the needs of the parish and the community.

At the heart of each opportunity for ministry in carrying out the work of God's kingdom are the people of Holy Apostles. Beginning with the leadership of the Vestry and staff and continuing with the countless volunteers who offer themselves for the sake of our mission and ministry, each of you makes Holy Apostles the faithful and vibrant place it is.

While statistics do not illuminate the entire story of our shared witness in 2009, I want to share a few. We baptized seven children and confirmed 14 adults and young people this year. In addition to that growth, we added about 30 families to the mailing list this year. Our attendance rose from 199 in 2008 to 240 in 2009. Your financial giving exceeded our budgetary expectations and new ministries and programs were started.

Each time we have needed a leader to emerge for a ministry, a teacher for a class, or a kind word to be shared with another parishioner, a committed lay person has stepped forward. Guests and newcomers continue to express their appreciation for the hospitality and authenticity they experience from their first visit to their participation in a Koinonia group. The sounds of children and youth fill the halls from Sunday morning to Sunday night through our education programs, and throughout the week with the Recreation program in the PLC.

Finally, as a worshipping community, we have shared in the celebrations of new life, death, and new birth. Each week with the ministry of many of you, we gather for worship, sing together, pray together and hear anew the stories of Scripture which shape and influence our lives, individually and collectively. It is the living out of those stories in our lives and in our world that give me such great joy as your priest.

The reports which follow describe those stories and the ways in which you are a part of the mission and ministry of Holy Apostles in the work God has given us to do. Please take a few minutes and read them. If you find a particular ministry that may call for your gifts and talents, please ask how you can become involved.

God's 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 processions, 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 2009 to the college of their choice, we also had some fresh new faces join us, especially at the Gospel Book Carrier position. Today, between our regularly scheduled Acolytes and our list of substitutes, we have (48) positions filled. This is a fantastic number of kids representing our church's youth and young adults.

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, seven 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 candle sticks
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 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, consisting of a team leader, 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.

This past year we welcomed three new members: Nita Dunn, Trisha Thompson, and Mary Jane Anderson. The Altar Guild would like to express 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 were able to donate \$2,500.00 and we hope to surpass that amount in 2010.

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, a sponsorship the flower guild renewed last year. Sindy's sponsorship is a yearly donation of \$750.00.

It is through our flower program, we are able to help support this meaningful ministry from your weekly contributions of altar flowers, Easter lilies, All Saint's mums and poinsettias. If you have any questions about this ministry or the altar guild, contact Jean Morris at 861-4694 or nannamorris@aol.com.

Bread Bakers, Sue Balogh, Team Leader

Early in its history, under the direction of then rector John Rice, Holy Apostles began using handmade bread consistently for communion. It was considered a living thing because of the yeast and, therefore, "natural". The bread was prepared by women who knew how to make bread. Many 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 rectorship of Robert Certain, we began preparing and using visitors' bread. When Holy Apostles hosted the diocesan convention for the first time, each delegate went home carrying a loaf of visitors' bread, close to 200 loaves.

We have continued in the tradition of handmade communion bread to this day. Each Sunday we prepare enough loaves for the morning services. Bread bakers prepare the loaves at home and deliver them to the church. We also prepare visitors' loaves each Sunday. The number of visitors' loaves varies according to liturgical and calendar seasons as well as holidays. We are available to bake bread for weddings and funerals as well.

Each bread baker is trained and practices at home before their first time on the schedule. Some were experienced bread bakers when they started on the team. Others were completely new to bread baking. All of us have grown as we have worked in this ministry. Prayer is part of our bread making.

Our bread bakers for 2009 are: Mary Ruth Bales, Maggie Beason, Clint Bratton, Carole Capra, Gaylann Hicks, Donna Kotara, Mike Marshall, Raeleen Roberts, Reuben Thompson and Sue Balogh. We thank them, and their predecessors, for sustaining one of the traditions of Holy Apostles and for providing this communion element for the congregation.

Boys & Girls Choir, Tom Carpenter, Director

The boys and girls choir includes children from K - 4 grades and has been an active ministry at Holy Apostles for several years. The boys and girls choir was continued in 2009 under new leadership. Tom Carpenter, a parishioner, volunteered to lead the children's choir for the church calendar year 2009 - 2010. The children's

choir rehearses each Sunday evening from 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM.

The primary objectives set forth at the beginning of the year were fairly simple and straight forward. The overarching goal set forth was to provide a fun, loving and nurturing environment for our children to learn to sing and help lead corporate worship through music. The primary objective that was set forth in the fall of 2009 was to have the children in church leading the music in a worship setting more frequently than in the past, a minimum of at least once per month. The choir sings hymns and anthems consistent with Anglican and Episcopal hymnody. This is intended to help both children and parents understand and appreciate the richness of music that has been so important within our faith tradition.

Beyond leading music in worship, our children were offered opportunities to participate in field trips to attend special music centric worship services provided by the Memphis Chamber and Memphis Boy Choirs at St. John's Episcopal Church. The children and their parents that participated not only enjoyed these services, acknowledged that this was helpful in seeing other children leading worship through music in a very high quality musical setting.

We believe that both our goals and primary objectives were met during the first half of the liturgical year 2009 - 2010. The children actively participated in worship services in each month, offering two anthems and providing acapella communion music as well.

There is a core of seven children and two parent helpers that make up this group and this will provide this ministry with many opportunities to come. In addition, the choir is accompanied in rehearsals by a young parishioner, Arielle Carpenter, who donates her time to this ministry as a part of her personal commitment to Holy Apostles. We are blessed by the support we enjoy in so many areas.

Building and Grounds, Phil Irish, Chair

Our committee is responsible for the “physical plant” that houses Holy Apostles. We are supervisory in nature, rather than wielding tools and equipment, for the most part. B&G obtained the contracts to: maintain our lawn and plantings, quarterly service and maintenance of our HVAC equipment, termite inspection and interior pest control, state required safety and fire equipment inspections, alarm system monitoring, etc.

We are involved in arrangements for things like floor waxing, window washing and like projects that fall outside the weekly cleaning schedule and respond to occasional problems such as small plumbing difficulties and light bulb replacement, as needed.

Several members do repairs to our cathedral chairs as time and drying glue require. Others are an informal subcommittee that plants and cares for the courtyard. Its fountain is part of that effort that also requires time and attention.

Our real challenges in the coming year revolve around caring for our plantings where money constraints have curtailed professional attention yet for the long term appearance of our property, attention is required. We've lost some small bushes and several trees and at the end of 2009 had an unplanned root feeding done to sustain the 126 trees we have. Talks have already begun on some replanting, but not yet complete research about the best method to fertilize and protect from insect damage, will have to inform our landscape efforts in 2010.

Children's Ministries, Penny Goldberg, Director

Sunday School In September 2008 we began using the Mustard Seed Series Sunday school curriculum for children and continued it in 2009 for grades Pre K(4)-4th grade. This curriculum provides a bible lesson, story, and activity each week. The curriculum is very friendly for both teachers and students and has been very well received. We have an amazing group of dedicated teachers and substitute teachers that are the backbone of this

program: Stephanie Tancredi, Sally Barron, Pat Papachristou, Gerry Papachristou, Maggie Beason, Susan Terry, Lillian Rinker, Carol Wingfield, Susan Young, Cheri Brittain, and Kimberly Georgi.

Children's Chapel Headed by Carla Raynor, Children's Chapel had renewed enthusiasm in 2009. We began a new Lectionary-based age appropriate program called "Living the Good News" in our new Children's Chapel space. 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.

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.

Classroom Design The Sunday school classrooms were redesigned for the Fall of 2009. Each classroom now has age appropriate tables and chairs, area rugs and white boards to go with the existing shelving. The Pre K(4)-K class moved to the old Youth Room in the main hall and is also the new home of the Children's Chapel.

Change in Staff After almost two years of service to Holy Apostles, our wonderful Children's Director, Leslie Thomas, left her role on staff and has returned to parishioner status. Penny Goldberg became the full-time Director of Ministry for Children and Youth.

Vacation Bible School Children's Ministries had an amazing year! Our Studio Go Vacation Bible School had 80 energetic students and more than 25 amazing volunteers from our parish. This was the largest vacation bible school ever held by Holy Apostles and many non-parishioners had the opportunity to experience our ministry for the first time.

Rally Day We added to Rally Day this year a Kick Off Carnival for our children. Thirty or more children joined us behind the church to play carnival games like fishing, bean bag toss, knocking down bottles, a ring toss and more! Fun was had by all!

Mardi Gras Parade We also had our first Marti Gras parade as part of the Strove Tuesday festivities. Over 20 children decorated their trikes, bikes and wagons to race around the parking lot grabbing and tossing beads as we headed into the Nave to sing out the Alleluias. Crafts, activities and great pancakes prepared and served by the youth rounded out this fun day!

Advent Festival This year we had our first 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, card making for troops overseas and parishioners could also choose a child off the Angel tree. This event was a remarkable success do to all the volunteers!

Epiphany Pageant For Epiphany Sunday, the children of the parish presented a simple, but beautiful, story of the birth of Jesus. The children practiced one Saturday and performed the pageant as the sermon on Sunday. 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. All of the participants did a wonderful job!

Youth Ministries, Penny Goldberg, Director
Kelly Gillian, Assistant, Mathew Jehl, Intern

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. 2009-2010 is our second

year using this program. In fall of 2010 we will begin the third and final section of the program for our older youth called YAC or young adults in church.

Rite13 This incredible bunch of Middle Schoolers, led by Anna Underwood, James Underwood and Paula Vaughan, began the year getting to know each other and developing their own group norms. They are in their second year of Rite 13 and will move to J2A in the fall. So far this year 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. Seven youth in the class participated in the Rite 13 Liturgy last year and the rest will participate in January, 2010.

J2A This amazing group of High Schoolers, led by Anne Cook, Matt Stone and Michael Warrillow also began the year by getting to know each other and developing their own classroom rules and expectations. They are in their second year of J2A. They worked together on things like "Walk in Love", "Who am I vs. Who I would Like to Be", "Assertion" and "Friendly Silence". They also are continuing to raise money for a Pilgrimage abroad.

Club56 This energetic bunch of fifth and sixth graders is led by Jenny Boals, Jane Edwards and Kevin Edwards. For Sunday School they use a new curriculum called 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. So far, they have worked on "Making Good Decisions", "Talking with God", and "Making a World of Difference".

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, Priest on A Hot Seat, Going to the Corn maze, bowling at Funquest, making care packages and cards to send overseas to our soldiers, watching movies, disk Golf and Caroling; just to name a few!

As well as our weekly meetings, we held two Lock-In's, 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!

Club 56 EYC Beginning in Fall 2009, this group meets once a month for EYC activities like Bowling, The Corn maze, Human Checkers and The Scooter Extravaganza!! 2009 was our first year beginning 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 \$500.00 for MIFA, The Advent Festival, where we raised \$1,000 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 2009. 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 On May 30th to June 5th Holy Apostles Youth took a trip to Mission on the Bay on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with Church of the Holy Communion. Among other things, we painted, weeded, demolished and build up the homes and lives of Hurricane Katrina victims. We also spent a day of fun in New Orleans! We will be returning in June 2010!

Classroom Design With the addition of Club 56 and an increase in Youth attendance, we needed to rethink and redesign the Sunday school classrooms and Youth Room for the Fall of 2009. Each classroom now has age appropriate tables and chairs, area rugs and white boards to go with the existing shelving. The Youth Room was moved to the larger classroom B, Club 56 occupied the larger classroom C and Rite 13 moved to the Conference Room.

Change in Staff After almost two years of service to Holy Apostles, our wonderful part-time Children's Director, Leslie Thomas, left her role on staff and has returned to parishioner status. Penny Goldberg became the full-time Director of Ministry for Children and Youth. Kelly Gillian became our Youth Assistant and Mathew Jehl was hired as our youth Intern. Kelly and Mathew's presence, time and talent has been a wonderful addition to our program!

Finance Committee Annual Report

2009 Committee Members – Cary Barnes (Assistant Treasurer), Ted Beason, Kevin Edwards, Jake Farrell, Phil Irish, Holly McDaniel (Parish Administrator), the Rev. John Leach (Rector), Brian Pecon (Chairman), Don Peterson, Kevin Reynolds (Vestry Liaison), Edward Robert (Treasurer), and John Terry.

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

Financial Performance – 2009 receipts totaled \$525,175. Of that, pledge receipts totaled \$350,934, coming in slightly above the budget of \$347,210 with 93 pledging units. Non-pledge income of \$58,058 was substantially over the \$30,000 budgeted amount. The Aggregate Operating Reserve (AOR) was reduced \$55,000 to cover the planned shortfall originally anticipated to be \$60,000. Church Home Grant funds of \$50,444 were used for children and youth Christian Education leadership. Actual operating expenses of \$521,664 were below the approved budget of \$542,785. The year-end Aggregate Operating Reserve balance is at \$54,500 and the Church Home Grant balance is \$44,884.

Trust One Loan Agreement – In January 2009 the current line of credit agreement was renegotiated to include two major items – an interest rate reduction of 1.00% to 6.25% and an extension of one year to September 1, 2012 before requiring both principal and interest payments. The year-end line of credit balance is \$1,321,561 a reduction of \$31,000 during 2009.

Capital Campaigns – The Phase II campaign was completed at mid-year, with a good portion of the total received for both Phase I and II capital drives. Efforts will continue to pursue original commitments.

Triennial Audit – In July Whitehorn Tankersley & Co. PLLC (CPA's) completed the first full three-year audit since purchase of the property, construction of both Phase I and II facilities and procurement of all new personal property. No major discrepancies were found and to improve standardization of financial matters, a small number of new administrative procedures were initiated and job descriptions created for all financially related positions. Per Diocesan policy, annual audits will be required when receipts exceed \$500,000.

Hospitality Committee, John Wasilik, Chair

The Hospitality Committee is a group of industrious people who provide the “yummies” and set up the beverages we all enjoy in the Fellowship period each Sunday. Our members create and/or purchase various

food settings, and also make coffee/lemonade, which is provided through the Church's funds. Additionally, we provide the setup and beverages for our monthly Serendipity Suppers. If asked, we set out beverages for individual parishioners for occasions such as baptismals and weddings.

Food service and setup 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 Congregation to assist us in preparing the variety of delicious finger sandwiches and desserts that is set out.

Each Sunday two Hospitality teams work together to provide the food and beverage setup. Our teams range as small as a single individual to entire families working together. With our current committee makeup, a team provides the Hospitality setup about every six weeks.

Our annual budget is \$3,000, covering everything but the food, nearly all of which is provided by the Hospitality committee members. So, if there was something you especially liked during the Fellowship period, let the Hospitality team for that week know about it. The names of the teams are included in the weekly Church Bulletin – We Facilitate Fellowship!

Koinonia, Ted Raynor, Chair

“Koinonia”

Frequently asked questions and more info

How do you pronounce that word?

koy-nohn-ee'-ah

What is the meaning of the word?

- 1. Generally, it means fellowship, communion, participation, and sharing;*
- 2. It also refers to Christian fellowship or communion with God or with fellow Christians; said in particular of the early Christian community;*
- 3. The Greek term can also relate to a spiritual relationship. In this sense, meaning something that is held and shared jointly with others for God, speaking to man's "relationship with God". The early Christian community saw this kind of bonding as a relationship with the Holy Spirit. In this context, koinonia highlights a higher purpose or mission that benefits the greater good of the members as a whole. The term "enthusiasm" is connected to this meaning of koinonia for it signifies "to be imbued with the Spirit of God in us."*

What is Koinonia within Holy Apostles?

A monthly meeting of parish families for a meal and fellowship. Some would refer to this as a "supper club". It is most often held at a church member's house on a rotating basis but there have also been groups that just met once a month at different restaurants. Either way, it provides participants a chance to spend quality time together in a relaxed atmosphere. Breaking bread together in this way creates and strengthens friendships within the parish.

What is involved?

Coordinating within a small group to rotate homes and meal assignments. Sometimes each family hosts the event and prepares the food but more often each meal is a combination of contributions by each family.

Do I have to cook?

No. You can participate by joining the restaurant group or by simply bringing along take-out food such as BBQ or roasted chicken, etc.

Can my kids be involved?

Yes! However some groups may choose to meet on one or more occasions as parents only. Flexibility and fun are key parts of the process.

How long does it last?

Once a month for about 5-6 months depending on the size of the group. New groups will be formed in March but new families can still join before then. Indeed, some new members already have.

Can I make a specific request?

Yes, all reasonable requests will be accommodated.

How do I sign up?

A sign-up sheet will be circulated in early March when a "re-shuffle" will occur and new groups formed. You may also contact Ted Raynor (traynor@bpjlaw.com // 603-7977) at any time.

Lector and Intercessor Ministry, Amelia Johnson, Chair

Many of you may not think of the Lay Readers as part of an active ministry at Holy Apostles. Not only are we an active ministry, we are an essential part of the worship team. To say that a well prepared Lay Reader makes no difference in the parishioners overall worship experience is to discount the difference between an actor who has taken the time to memorize and practice their lines and one who simply reads from a script. For many Christians, hearing the scriptures read aloud during the church service is critical to their overall worship experience. How these readings are presented can have a profound effect on the spiritual life of the congregation at Holy Apostles.

During the last two years, Holy Apostles has worked to develop the Lay Reader ministry into an effective tool for the presentation of God's word to the people. 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. The Lay Reader ministry head holds twice yearly training sessions to go over simple directions regarding: volume, acoustics, speed, timing, and staging. 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.

Holy Apostles has seen an increase of approximately 50% in the number of new Lay Readers in the last two years. Many ministry members serve only as 'readers', however, individuals from a number of other ministries at our church have also chosen to serve in the "reader" capacity. Holy Apostles has readers from the Lay Eucharist Ministry, the Choir, the Altar Guild, Sunday school teachers, Ushers, and Hospitality Committee. All ministry members consider it an honor to serve in this capacity. To be able to present God's message to the people of the congregation is a responsibility that we hold most dear. It is our privilege to serve you, God's beloved.

Men's Group, Ken Balogh, President

Resuscitated and reorganized in late 2009, the Men's Group will offer a full range of activities for the men of Holy Apostles and the community at large during the year under the guidance of its mission statement: For men to grow in service to God through fellowship, outreach, prayer and support of the Holy Apostles ministries.

In December '09, some of the men of the church and their families served at More Than a Meal at grace St. Luke's.

On January 27 at 7:30, the whole community will be offered the opportunity to hear Dr. Cyril Chang present an analysis of the health care legislation working its way through congress. Dr. Chang is a Professor of Economics at the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis where he is also the Director

of Methodist, Le Bonheur Center for Healthcare Economics. He and Alice, his wife, are members of Holy Apostles.

During Lent, the Men's Group will provide a meal of soup and salad for the evening classes.

Other activities for the year include a fly fishing trip, canoeing on the Wolf River, a possible nature preserve on the church property.

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

The Newcomers committee is comprised of two chairpersons and fifteen 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.
- Quarterly, we have a reception 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 2009, we had 3 Newcomers receptions: January 15th with 14 Newcomers attending, April 30th with 12 Newcomers attending, and October 15th with 8 Newcomers attending

Our next Newcomers reception will be in early February 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.

For the future, we are looking to incorporate pictures and informational articles on the people who most recently joined the church in the monthly newsletter. This is a great way 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!

Outreach Committee, Lesley Cullen, Chair

Looking back at what outreach accomplished in 2009, we are thankful to have the dedicated parishioners that make outreach happen. Because of the kindness of these individuals Holy Apostles continues to serve our local and global community in many ways.

- In January a group of 24 Holy Apostles knitters and crocheters of all skill levels worked together to create four beautiful, warm blankets and 6 hats. **The Warm Up America!** idea is that by working together, each person's contribution of a few squares will make large blankets when assembled. These were donated to **Moriah House**, the women's shelter arm of **Memphis Union Mission**. Some of these afghan blankets were given as special graduation gifts to women completing Moriah House's recovery program.

- For the season of Lent, and as an expression of faith, the Outreach Committee invited the parish to bring a canned good or dry good to church to support **Collierville Food Pantry**.
- We had 18 parishioners and friends participate in Habitat for Humanity spring build on April 4th. We spent a busy afternoon painting the exterior and other construction work on the siding/soffits etc. It was a great day and very rewarding. We were especially happy to include two of our young people on the work crew. There was a donation made toward the financial sponsorship of the home.
- In 2009, the **Collierville Victory Garden**, which Holy Apostles supports through labor and monetary contributions, produced 3,569 lbs of vegetables. This was distributed to needy local residents primarily through the Collierville Food Pantry. Produce was also donated to Page Robbins Adult Daycare Center. Plans are underway to match or increase this yield for 2010.
- In 2009, the parish participated in the Book Drive to benefit Jail East. During the months of April and May the parish again responded to our request for donations. In all 5 boxes of New and used books were delivered.
- The outreach committee hosted two summer cookouts for the **Page Robbins Center**. Volunteers provided food and then spent time visiting the residents.
- The **Backpack project** in 2009, took on a new form with Father Terry being the new priest at St. Phillips. Working under their lead we changed the approach and collected monetary funds to supply the goods in a more efficient and long term manner for the children of the Emmanuel Center. St. Phillips bought the supplies in bulk which were handed out in the first week of August at Emmanuel center and a supply closet was formed. Father Terry created an account for the surplus money and they were able to provide needed uniforms and more specific supplies for the children. We had six people participate in the distribution. We were able to donate over \$1200.00. Due to the change in the process they are still well supplied and are communicating with Father Terry for additional funds when supplies are needed.
- Starting in September, Holy Apostles began the **Helping Hands mentoring program** with a group of 4 sixth graders and 2 eighth graders from Emmanuel Episcopal Center. The individuals involved in the mentoring program at this time are Mim Stokes-Brown, Lisa Leach and Claudia Sims. The purpose of this mentoring relationship is threefold:
 - To nurture, encourage, and celebrate the students' academic achievements
 - To increase the students' exposure to and awareness of various career paths
 - To help prepare these students for and aid them in their college admissions

In September we met the mentees for the first time when we had a meeting with the mentees and parents at the Emmanuel Center. Since the first meeting we have coordinated the following events:

- A tour of the University of Memphis and an interactive session at the School of Nursing organized by Claudia Sims
 - Outing to the Pink Palace (scavenger hunt and IMAX movie on the Grand Canyon)
 - Class with science teacher JP Culley re: water experiments and hike along the Wolf River bottoms
 - Two after school tutoring sessions at the Emmanuel Center
 - Tour of the Shelby County Court House and meeting with the Honorable James Russell
 - The ECW has helped support the mentoring program by providing box lunches and collecting books.
- In October Holy Apostles hosted the annual Blood drive and wellness fair. 12 parishioners donated blood and Flu shots were administered.
 - During November donations were collected to benefit **MS Project Package**. Holy Apostles delivered 2 car loads of items such as Christmas candy, toiletries, basketballs, cookies, crackers, gum, and hot chocolate and flip flops to the military facility in Southaven. In addition a parish family supplied much needed postage for an additional 30 care packages.
 - For the 6th year Holy Apostles Church has participated in the **Emmanuel Episcopal Center Christmas Gift Giving Program**. We adopted 26 children. Gifts and donations were collected from the volunteers in the parish and taken down to the Center. In addition, the parish donated dry and canned goods for the

Collierville Food Pantry during the months of November and December and nine 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 non-profits: Church Health Center, Page Robbins, Emmanuel Center (mentoring program), Grace St. Luke's (for knit caps), Episcopal Relief and Development, Calvary Hospitality Hub, West Tennessee Haiti Partnership.
- We also give thanks for the outreach ministry Our Little Roses, which is spearheaded by the Altar Guild & Flower Guild.

As we look ahead to **2010** at the contributions we can make, outreach will focus more attention on Emmanuel Center Mentoring with support and awareness and signing up new volunteers to fill the needs of existing ministries like Collierville Food Pantry, Page Robbins, Collierville Volunteer Garden, Backpack Project and MS Project Package. In addition plans are under way for another yarn bee to benefit Hope House, the school/shelter for youth living with HIV/AIDS in Memphis. During Lent we will ask for donations of dry and canned goods for the Collierville Food Pantry.

Popcorn Theology, Curtis Finn, Chair

Popcorn Theology started back up in October 2009 after a several year hiatus. Although not as well received as a Beatles reunion, momentum is building toward a strong 2010. The Popcorn Theology ministry accomplishes the goals of our Parish in a number of different ways:

- Fellowship – Parishioners watch the selected movies and in one of several different venues (for new releases in the theatre and for DVDs either in the PLC or in the homes of fellow parishioners). This allows us to get to know our fellow parishioners on a more intimate level. After viewing the movie selection we gather together – usually back at Holy Apostles – to discuss the theological ideas and issues presented in the film.
- Evangelism – You can bring your friends in to experience our community of faith in a non-threatening environment.
- Theological Reflection – By discussing the films in an open forum it allows each of us to see how we can potentially address modern day issues of faith in a manner consistent with our Christian beliefs.

The next Popcorn Theology will take place on January 30th in the PLC. At that time we will not only view and discuss the film, *The Mission*, but we will also decide on future viewings and venues for the next quarter.

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 night every Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:00
- Holy Apostles Youth basketball 2009 – 2010 program. Holy Apostles has two boy basketball teams, a 3rd and 4th grade team and a 5th and 6th grade team. playing in the ESCRA (East Shelby Church Recreation Association) league.
- Grace Evangelical Church has over 66 basketball teams in their recreation program. Since they needed space to practice and we had space available, we are renting court time to them for \$25/hour. The PLC is being used four days a week for basketball practice. Over 100 youths are practicing in the PLC each week. ESCRA is also using the PLC to schedule games on Saturdays.
- The EYC is selling refreshments during the youth basketball games to raise money for their Pilgrimage trip.

- Family volleyball is being offered the last Wednesday of each month.
- Money raised from renting the PLC was used to wax and clean the PLC floor this year.

Saints Alive! , Courtney Dukes, Chair

2009 welcomed the return of this popular tradition at Holy Apostles. Saints Alive! is an opportunity for the adults of the parish to gather for food, fun and fellowship. It is held bi-monthly rotating among the houses of parishioners who graciously volunteer to welcome us into their homes. Approximately 30-70 adults attended each event this year.

Our kickoff event was a family potluck picnic in celebration of Pentecost Sunday. It was a spirit-filled afternoon featuring music by our Bluegrass Mass musicians, games for the children, and dancing for all. In August, there was a back-to-school bash at the home of Christina and Guy See, followed by an enchanted fall evening at Carla and Ted Raynor's home in October. In December, Julie and Jake hosted a joyous Advent Festival like no other! Indeed, 2009 was a blessed year for the Saints Alive! ministry. God's presence was felt among us all as we shared the joy of friendships new and old.

We will continue the rich tradition of Saints Alive! in 2010. We are invited to Lee and Tom Carpenter's home for a Mardi Gras celebration in February. We will again celebrate the hope that Pentecost brings in May. Please watch for service leaflet announcements and plan on joining us in the future! Please contact Courtney Dukes at csdukes@live.com with any questions.

Sewing Group, Pat Wasilik

The Sewing Group meets every Monday that the Church Office is open from 10:00am till 2:00pm in the PLC. We are an open neighborhood handwork group encompassing members of the parish and members of the community with a common interest. The attendance is usually about ten, with a breakdown of 50% ladies of the parish and 50% ladies from other churches.

The projects in 2009 have included many individual projects of sewing, quilting, knitting, and rug hooking. Charity "Auction Quilts" were made and donated to raise money for the Memphis Shakespeare Festival and the Memphis Family Shelter. Additionally, as a group we have provided twin-sized quilts to the Collierville Food Pantry, baby quilts and bereavement quilts to The Med, adult clothing protectors, knitted hats to More Than a Meal and our last group project of the year was making and supplying 12 dozen fleece scarves to a Navaho Indian Reservation in Arizona. These were delivered by a mission group from another church the Monday after Christmas.

Individually and as a group, we travelled to the Paducah Quilt Show in KY, the Quilt Show at the Davies Plantation and the Brooks Art Museum Quilt Show.

In October, a nationally known quilt instructor was invited to come and teach a new sewing technique to the group. This was open to all. The participation was healthy and the enthusiasm was expressed by all that attended.

We are self-contained and use a rolling wheeled basket to store notions left in the PLC from week to week. Additionally, a set of 10" risers (made by one of the ladies husbands) to raise the height of the tables for stretching, and an ironing board are kept in the PLC closet.

There are no budget requirements and all donations are philanthropic. There are no specific activities planned for 2010.

Ushers, Bill McCarty, Chair

The ushers are responsible for greeting church members as they come into the Nave. They make sure everyone has a service sheet and find seats for them when the church begins to fill up. The ushers are responsible for assisting Oblationers, taking up the offering, and for the orderly movement of members to the alter rail for communion. The ushers look for newcomers and give them a welcome folder to fill out so the parish office can send them a welcome letter. Before they leave, they are given a visitor's bag with homemade bread and information about Holy Apostles. The ushers invite the visitors back to worship with us. We added five new ushers in 2009 and expect to add more during 2010. All new ushers receive personal instruction so they can perform their duties with confidence.

Women's Group, Wendy McEntee, Co-Chair

2009 was a very busy year for the women of Holy Apostles. Some worked in the Waffle Shop at Calvary during the Lenten season. Several gathered together to go and hear the Presiding Bishop speak during the convention. In June, we gathered for our annual summer party for food, wine, and fellowship. We even started a new tradition and have begun going to the movies the last Monday night of each month.

In September, we met for a luncheon to discuss where we have been and where we are going. After gathering some information and doing some research, we decided to officially form a chapter of the Episcopal Church Woman (ECW). We formed a committee to help us achieve that goal. As an ECW chapter, we will focus our activities on inreach (serving each other and our church), outreach (serving the world), and spiritual growth.

We look forward to what 2010 will bring. The ECW formation committee continues to work towards the development of our local chapter and we expect to make everything official before the summer. In the meantime, we are making plans focusing on inreach, outreach, and spiritual formation. Many of us are assisting with conference preparation. We hope to attend womens retreats at St. Columba and even possibly holding a workshop on some aspect of spiritual formation. We will continue working with the outreach committee in order to reach out and serve the greater community. We will also continue to gather for fun and fellowship. Finally, we will continue serving as a vital and growing part of the community at Holy Apostles.