



2020

Parish Ministry
Report

Presented at
Annual Parish Meeting

January 24, 2021

Clergy Report

I have typically begun my annual report with an expression of gratitude for being able to minister among you here at Holy Apostles. I do so again, and perhaps with a deeper sense of thanksgiving than ever. I am so glad to have been a part of the faithful ministry carried on in this place over the past year, and I know that this is where I am called to be during this time.

The year 2020 was unlike anything we expected twelve months ago. Looking back over the year was a strange experience for me—there was much shifting and changing, and time itself seems different, with so many expected mile markers along the way getting missed, delayed, or reimagined. The past year saw a suspension of in-person worship due to the novel coronavirus from late March through the end of May—a period that included half of Lent and all of Easter. Our return to gathering in church entailed new safety precautions—masks, social distancing, shortened services, no in-person fellowship or large events. In August we bid farewell to Fr. John Leach, after over a decade of his ministry as rector here. The autumn saw us settling into some sense of a new (temporary) normal, including weekly celebrations of Holy Eucharist, and welcoming our new deacon, the Rev. Gerri Endicott, before having to suspend in-person worship again due to rising COVID numbers in December.

Throughout this strange and challenging year, I was continually blessed by the faithfulness, diligence, and creativity of the people of Holy Apostles. There were many things that continued much the same as before—we held each other in prayer, sought to grow as disciples, supported those in need in our community and beyond; marriages were blessed, babies were born, saints were commended to God at life's end. There was also much that changed or was offered in new ways, as evidenced by this year's ministry reports—through Zoom gatherings, Facebook live, and YouTube videos, we continued to gather virtually for fellowship and prayer, Bible studies, Sunday school, and book discussions. When weather permitted it, we planned outdoor events, such as the Pentecost and All Hallows' parades. In all these, I have been especially thankful for the devoted service of our staff, vestry, and many lay ministers and volunteers, and to all of you whose support and involvement make our ongoing ministry possible.

As we begin 2021, we may look forward with confidence and hope. The vestry has approved a sound budget for the year ahead, built upon your generosity and faith. Our Search Committee is diligently continuing the work of the transition process to call a new rector, using the parish survey results to compile the Parish Profile, which will enable them to start receiving names. As a community of faith, we have come through a very trying year, indeed, and have reason to be proud of what we have accomplished and grateful for what we have received. Above all, we take our stand now as always upon the firm foundation of the unchanging love of God in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is "the same yesterday and today and forever."

The Rev. Clay Calhoun, Associate Priest
clay@holypostlestn.net

Adult Formation

The following offerings were available to adults of all ages in 2020.

Adult Forum (formerly Rector's Forum) (Sunday mornings) – Adult Forum is the weekly adult Sunday School class time at Holy Apostles. The theme for 2020 - 2021 is *Walk In Love - Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, based upon a book recently written by Episcopal priests Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. The purpose of the book and these educational sessions is to help both new and longtime members of the Episcopal Church to know and understand better the beliefs and practices that mark us and our particular faith tradition. In light of the pandemic, the decision was made to provide these education sessions online via YouTube. Parishioners interested in getting involved in this important ministry should contact Tom Carpenter, Director of Adult Formation at tom@holypostlestn.net.

Men's Prayer Breakfast (2nd Tuesdays at 7:00 am) - Each month, on the second Tuesday morning, we meet to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, pray, and to read and discuss Scripture together. The Men's Prayer Breakfast has grown over the past year and typically includes several men from across the parish coming together to learn and discuss how to understand and apply the Bible and what it has to say to us in our everyday lives. This group met in January and February only.

Reading with the Rector (now Reading with Holy Apostles) (3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, except for June and July) – Using an alternating format of fiction and non-fiction books, this group discussed a wide-range of literature from popular novels to classics.

The Good Book Club – This is an Episcopal Church-wide Bible reading program. Participants read individually.

Explorer's Class (seasonal) – This class invites those who wish to learn more about the Episcopal Church and those who may be seeking a deeper understanding of their faith to a series of discussions on the Bible, church history, the sacraments, and the Book of Common Prayer.

Bible Study (Tuesdays and Thursdays) – Using the Feasting on the Word curriculum, these discussions focus on the Sunday readings. The group is facilitated by Tom Carpenter.

Journey (seasonal) – This group reflects on the ways in which our understandings of the Bible have shaped our life as religious folk. We consider our various backgrounds and traditions which have led us to where we are today. The ultimate expectation is that one can find ways to speak about faith without getting lost in the formal language of the church. The Journey class did not convene in 2020.

Adult Formation: Bible Study

Adult Bible Study at Holy Apostles is designed to provide participants with a Lectionary based curriculum that encourages open small group style discussion of weekly scripture lessons prior to the assigned Sunday readings and sermon content. This format helps participants engage more fully in corporate worship each week more prepared to hear and respond to God's word.

This year, due to health-related restrictions due to the pandemic, we were able to take our adult Bible Study offerings online via Zoom to stay safe while still offering four meetings per week. Building on the three already established groups that were meeting each week at 6:30 pm, one on Tuesdays and the

other on Thursdays plus our women's group which meets on Thursday mornings at 11:00 am, we added a men's ecumenical Bible Study group that meets on Monday mornings at 7:00 am. We now average between 25 - 30 participants per week in these small groups. One of the most pleasant surprises for this past year going online has been the ability to accommodate attendees from out of town. Regular attendees now include participants from Alabama, Texas, Nebraska, and Rhode Island.

We utilize the "Feasting on the Word" lectionary based adult curriculum. Each week, we discuss the selected lectionary reading from four different perspectives:

- What is important to know? (Exegetical Perspective)
- Where is God in these words? (Theological Perspective)
- So what does this mean for our lives? (Pastoral Perspective)
- Now what is God's word calling us to do? (Homiletical Perspective)

While the discussion format and curriculum commentary provide good structure, the discussion each week is open and free flowing. The group is facilitated by Tom Carpenter and is open to all interested people, regardless of whether Bible study is something brand new or a lifelong practice. Anyone looking for an interactive small group format in which to read, study, and discuss the Bible in a fun, safe, and nurturing environment is enthusiastically encouraged to join us by contacting Tom Carpenter, Director of Adult Formation at tom@holypostlestn.net.

Tom Carpenter, Bible Study Ministry Leader
tom@holypostlestn.net

Adult Formation: Reading with the Rector (now Reading with Holy Apostles)

Using an alternating format of fiction and nonfiction, this group discussed a wide range of literature including historical novels, memoirs, and fantasy. The selections were made from suggestions by the group members and adjusted during the year as needed to accommodate the group's interest and member preferences.

Participation varies from month to month. Several new members have joined, although overall attendance remains fluid. This year we met in person in January and February, then on Zoom starting in April.

There are no group expenditures. The members find their own books and refreshments are donated, when we meet in person.

Sandy Knirr, Reading with Holy Apostles Group Leader
skknirr@gmail.com

Altar Guild and Flower Guild

The Altar Guild Ministry

*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 seven to eight 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.

Flower Guild/Our Little Roses Outreach Ministry

Our Little Roses Ministry continues to grow. Last year we donated \$3,500. \$1,500 of this was matched for a total donation value of \$6,500. We hope to surpass that amount in 2020. Since 2007, we have donated \$45,000!

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, 3-year-old, Sindy Vanessa Pineda, a sponsorship the flower guild continues to renew each year. Sindy's

sponsorship is a yearly donation of \$750. We also sent her \$820 for her education. Plus, we sent \$2,000 for 30 girls to receive Christmas outfits.

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 Mums and Poinsettias.

A special thank-you to Donna Abney, Diana Kelly, Diane Reddoch and Carol Robertson for assisting with the flower arrangements during the past year, to Kathy Krieger for filling the candles each week, to Bryce Smith for washing linens and to Maggie Beason, Bonnie Klodzinski, Jeanette Maddox, Andrea Smith and Stan Smith for continuing to help with Altar Guild duties. Thank you to Frank Mayfield and John Paul Kavin for hanging the wreaths in the nave this Christmas.

If you have any questions about this ministry or the Altar Guild, contact Jean Morris.

Jean Morris, Altar Guild/Flower Guild Ministry Leader
(901) 489-3877 or nannamorris@aol.com

Children

Cynthia McCarty acts as both Director of Youth Ministry and Director of Children's Ministry. This is a big job and wouldn't be possible without help from our parent volunteers. They are an integral part of the success of Children's Ministry every year!

Christian Formation Classes (PreK – 5th grade) – The first weeks of 2020 started out pretty “normal.” We were able to have Sunday School (using the Spark curriculum) and Children's Chapel.

Beginning mid-March to the present, we moved online to offer a weekly Sunday School class on social media sites. In the fall, the Illustrated Ministries curriculum was used to study the Beatitudes. In Advent, we used the Advent curriculum.

Family Devotional – Beginning in Advent, Cynthia started hosting a Family Devotional at 6:00 pm every Sunday. It was great to be together with others in the parish through fellowship, discussion and prayer. These devotionals will continue and will use the weekly Gospel, as well as the theme of the current church season.

Mardi Gras Parade – Since this occurred prior to COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to hold our annual Shrove Tuesday event with Mardi Gras Parade. Children decorated their trikes, bikes and wagons to race from the PLC to the Nave. We gathered in the PLC and followed the Mighty Souls Brass Band to the Nave. Crafts, activities and delicious pancakes, prepared and served by the youth, rounded out this fun event!

Pentecost Parade – We had a wonderful welcome back to the church with a Pentecost car parade. Several stations were set up for drivers and passengers to enjoy, including a station with live music, a family station with bags of crafts and resources for church at home, a station of prayer and blessing with Father John and Father Clay, and a station for donations to the Collierville Food Pantry.

Vacation Bible School – Compassion Camp! Though we did not meet in person, a VBS was offered online every Sunday in August. By combining online pre-recorded lessons and family discussion by Zoom, we were able to be together in fellowship to learn more about compassion.

Communion Instruction Class – This year, Father Clay led our class online. He talked about Communion and its importance in our church. The class occurred at an ideal time this fall when we began to offer Communion in church again.

Blessing of the Pets Parade – This year, instead of the usual Blessing of the Pets service, we had a parade where pets were blessed in cars by Father Clay and given a bag of treats. We also accepted donations for the Collierville Animal Shelter.

All Hallows' Eve – All Hallows' Eve turned into a Trunk or Treat Costume Parade. Children were able to trick or treat, make crafts, and show off their costumes at a safe social distance.

Advent Festival – On the first Sunday in Advent, the Holy Apostles store was open and offered Advent and Holy Apostles merchandise for purchase. We also provided Advent prayers, crafts, and other resources for families to take home and do together to prepare for the birth of Jesus. In addition, see description of Family Devotional above.

Christmas Pageant – This year's Christmas pageant was one of the greatest of all time. Many Holy Apostles families pre-recorded scenes from our pageant, which were then edited together to share on Christmas Eve via social media. It was such a gift to be able to tell the story of Jesus' birth in this way. If you would like to see the video, please contact Cynthia.

Cynthia McCarty, Director of Children's Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry
cynthia@holypostlestn.net

Finance

2020 Finance Committee Members

Richard Finch, Margaret Yancey, Mary Fortin, Mark Harris, John Paul Kavin, Wilson Barton, Kevin Edwards, Clark Madison

2020 Financial Performance

Pledge income fell short of the 2020 budgeted numbers by \$35,000 and Plate Non-Pledge fell \$25,800 short.

Expenses were well controlled and came in \$223,700 under budget for 2020. There were three main contributing factors for the lower costs in 2020 (1) PPP funds, (2) 3 months without a Rector, and (3) lower operating costs because of not having in-person services or activities for most of the year.

As a result, Holy Apostles took in approximately \$168,300 more than it spent in 2020. That surplus will be held in the Aggregate Operating Reserve to be used in 2021 and beyond, should the Church need additional funds for unforeseen/unbudgeted expenses as it navigates through these unprecedented times.

*All dollar figures rounded to the nearest \$100. Monthly Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheets and Committee Reports are available in the parish office for your review.

Clark Madison, Treasurer
clark_madison@yahoo.com

Hospitality

Thanks to everyone who participated in bringing food for the events we covered in early 2020. We were able to provide snacks and treats on Sundays as well as for the Bishop's visit and Confirmation welcome reception on February 9, 2020. In mid-March, hospitality shifted to only coffee and bottled water in order to minimize any COVID-19 transmissions. Soon thereafter, all worship services shifted to remote services, and our committee has not yet been able to resume efforts for events that have taken place at the church.

Once we are able to again safely provide hospitality in the form of food and beverages, our goals will be to provide organized sign-ups, recruit more volunteers, and continue to support our parish by providing delicious hospitality to greet members and guests.

When that time comes, please be sure to join in this ministry! It is easy to bring a couple of plates of cookies, donuts, pretzels, chips, cheese, fruit, or other treats for our hospitality hour. Sign up to participate in our volunteer rotation, or just pick up an extra package of cookies the next time you are at the store and drop them at the church kitchen to stock the cupboard for Sundays!

Elaine Sanders, Hospitality Ministry Leader
elaineSanders@comcast.net

Men's Group

In 2020, The Men's Group continued Tuesday night basketball until mid-March. This important fellowship activity has endured the test of time and still proves to be the longest running and most attended Men's Group activity. It promotes so many positive attributes of the men of Holy Apostles and attracts both members and non-members. On Saturday, October 24th many men volunteered their time and energy for a Holy Apostles workday. Under the leadership of Lorena Sappington, we pressure washed different areas including our sign, put down 10 yards of mulch, replaced old and dead plants, and patched holes in our parking lot.

In 2021 the Men of Holy Apostles plan to begin anew all the pre-2020 annual activities that have provided vital fellowship and service to our parish, as well as continue to look for new opportunities. As we progress in our search for the next rector, be prepared for many more workdays coming soon!

If you are interested in participating in any of our currently planned activities, please reach out to the following:

Tuesday Night Basketball led by Kevin Edwards, 901-227-8552
Annual August Ministry Fair BBQ led by Glenn Hopper, 901-461-5152

If you would be interested in sponsoring new activities, have a need that fits the Men's Group mission, or would like to be added to our distribution list (workday notifications, upcoming activities, etc.) I would love to hear from you. Please contact Zach Tatum.

Zach Tatum, Men's Group Ministry Leader
(662) 588-8550 or zltatum@libertymail.net

Men's Group: Holy Hikers

Come join us for exercise and fellowship! We hike on the second Saturday of each month, leaving the Church at 9:00 am for a different destination each hike. Families, friends, pets, members, non-members, old, young - all are invited to join the fun! Suggested hikes or trails are always welcome. No reservations or sign-ups are required. Just show up!

We plan short, easy hikes, mostly in the two to three-mile range. The only equipment you will need is the desire to enjoy the out-of-doors with friends, appropriate clothing for the season, fluids, and usually lunch or a snack.

We look for nearby sites that have interesting features or history. We may combine a hike with lunch at a fun restaurant. We welcome new members and visitors. These hikes are a great way to meet new friends and deepen friendships. Please join us!

We will announce the next hike monthly in both the newsletter and service bulletin. Contact Frank Potter [901-230-1818, oldhunkobones@gmail.com] or John Ogle [901-574-2635, jdocpa21@gmail.com] for more information or details.

Frank Potter, Holy Hikers Group Leader
oldhunkobones@gmail.com

Newcomers

The Newcomers committee is comprised of three chairpersons and about twenty 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 committee members at the hospitality cart before services or by the ushers as visitors leave the church.
- We normally have 1-2 receptions each year where newcomers are invited as "guests of honor" and encouraged to get to know the Vestry, Newcomers Committee members, and our rector. This year, due to COVID-19, we did not have any receptions.

Our church is blessed with friendly parishioners who go above and beyond in welcoming visitors – it makes the Newcomers Committee's job much easier! Keep up the good work!

Lee Carpenter, Newcomers Committee Co-Chair
 alicarp65@gmail.com

Carey Mayfield, Newcomers Committee Co-Chair
 careymayfield@gmail.com

Niki Shaheen, Newcomers Committee Co-Chair
 nshaheen1@comcast.net

Music Ministry

By preparing for and leading worship, the music ministry offers important opportunities for Christian formation and service to everyone in the parish. You will find a warm welcome in the music ministry.

1. Members of the Parish Choir currently rehearse as needed. Typically, the ministry is organized around the following service schedule:
 - Wednesday night rehearsals, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
 - Sunday services at 9:00 am; third Sundays at 11:00 am
 - Assists with diocesan worship as called upon
 - Prepares and leads seasonal worship such as Holy Week and Christmas
2. Staff Singers
 - Three singers (soprano, alto, and bass) assist with the Parish Choir.
 - Student staff singers gain valuable experience while providing support to our choir.
3. The cantor ministry is an especially important component of a singing church, particularly during the pandemic.
4. 5:15 pm Bluegrass service of evening prayer is a distinctive feature of our music ministry and a valuable offering to the Collierville community. A team of musicians is led by Eric Lewis.
5. Professional musicians from the Memphis Symphony and the community are called upon to lead Easter and Christmas worship celebrations as well as accompanying Sunday worship throughout the year.
6. Friends of Music will begin scheduled offerings again when it is safe to do so.
7. The music ministry is working with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra to provide space for teaching stringed instruments in Collierville and the surrounding area. Until the pandemic forced changes, Priscilla Tsai and Jordan Musgrave were working in the church several times each week. In exchange, the music ministry has access to strings players as needed for Sunday morning worship.

Jim Walsmith, Organist-Choirmaster
 jim@holypostlestin.net

Outreach

Our many Outreach ministries provide nourishment, warmth, supplies, mentoring, an attentive ear, caring and compassion to our brothers and sisters in our community. The ministries are staffed by leaders and team members who generously give of their time and resources. In addition, Holy Apostles gives substantial monetary donations to a variety of outreach agencies on a local, regional and international basis.

Below is a brief recap from last year's individual outreach ministries. If any of the ministries described below interest you, simply contact the ministry leader to learn more and get involved. If you have new ideas for an outreach ministry, please contact Father John.

- **MIFA Meals-On-Wheels** (Tammy Risch) – Our team of six dedicated and experience volunteers delivers meals to elderly north Collierville residents who, for various reasons, have difficulty leaving their homes. We not only provide essential nutrition but almost much-needed social contact, making sure there is a friendly face checking in on them on a routine basis. Joining forces with other organizations to ensure our clients have enough meals throughout the month, our regular schedule has our team delivering twice monthly. For most of 2020, the pandemic caused us to limit this to one delivery per month for the safety of our clients. However, when MIFA feels it is safe to do so, we will return to our twice monthly deliveries

- **Monday Morning Sewing** (Pat Wasilik) - Each Monday at 9:00 am a group of sewers and handcrafters meets in the PLC to work on outreach and personal projects.

No experience is necessary to join this group. Members are happy to provide coaching to all newcomers, regardless of prior experience.

Monday Morning Sewing suspended activity in March of 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

- **More-Than-A-Meal** (Maggie and Ted Beason) – Holy Apostles' volunteers continued to support Grace St. Luke's More-Than-a-Meal ministry throughout 2020 on our third Sunday of the month rotation. Due to COVID-19, in early spring the format changed from a sit-down supper to providing a to-go sack meal. For each bagged meal, GSL prepared a sandwich, chips and a dessert. Holy Apostles provided fruit cups, NutriGrain bars and a volunteer to help prepare the bags. In late spring, one Holy Apostles' saint provided a hundred handmade face masks. In December, another saint provided a large bag full of knit afghan blankets. For Christmas, volunteers provided a variety of food items, including chili, snack items, holiday candy and homemade Christmas cookies, to fill 50 gift bags for the guests and two Holy Apostles volunteers helped to distribute.
- **Soup Pot Ministry** (Mac McCarroll) - We deliver soup and other food and clothing items to Christ Community Church where it provides a warm meal and comfort to many hungry and homeless people. St. George's High School, through Mac's daughters, have joined the fun by creating "The Soup Troupe" who are helping us make and deliver the soup. Want to contribute? Just double your next recipe when making soup, put it in a plastic 1 qt. zip bag, mark it with date and contents, freeze it and bring it to the church kitchen freezer. It will be put to excellent use!
- **Lenten Food Drive** (John Wasilik) - Each year over Lent, Holy Apostles runs a food drive for the Collierville Food Pantry. Our drive for 2020 - "The Way of Love – In Lent" – was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of the normal seven-week drive, we concluded it after five weeks. Still, the parishioners of Holy Apostles graciously donated 1,200 pounds of food, enough for about 1,000 meals to provide nutrition to area families who cannot afford to purchase all they need. Thanks again for your generosity and caring!

- **Operation Backpack** (Stacey Hopper) - Operation Backpack 2020 was a success even during a pandemic! We limited the number of volunteers and everyone wore a mask while filling backpacks for children in need. Instead of collecting money from parishioners this year, Holy Apostles donated \$1,000 to the cause from the Parish Ministry Fund.
- **Collierville School Supplies** (Beth Hines) - There are many children in the Collierville Municipal School system from families who cannot afford basic school supplies. The parishioners at Holy Apostles always step up to give school supplies, helping to offset a large obstacle these kids face. The drive for supplies was suspended this year, due to COVID-19, but we hope to resume in the future.
- **Collierville Animal Shelter Support** (Lorena Sappington) - During the Blessing of the Pets Parade in early October, parishioners donated pet food and supplies, which we delivered to the Collierville Animal Shelter. We thank everyone who so generously contributed essential items to help take care of all God's creatures.
- **Collierville Food Pantry Volunteers** (John Wasilik) - Each December, Holy Apostles provides volunteers to assist the Collierville Food Pantry. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic required the Food Pantry to cease using monthly volunteers in 2020. If the Food Pantry returns to using monthly volunteers this year we will again solicit for support near the end of the year.
- **Outreach Grants**
Our 2020 budget included \$10,000 under Outreach for Direct Assistance to designated organizations. Though the pandemic has made this a year of adjustments and belt-tightening for our parish, it has simultaneously created acute needs for these organizations and the populations they serve. We are happy to report that we have been able to make our full contributions as planned to these organizations. Your support of Holy Apostles has helped make possible the ongoing ministries of these organizations.

Pastoral Care

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.

Our Pastoral Care Committee is comprised of 35 parishioners who are available to meet the pastoral care needs of the parish. Clergy provides the committee with information about individuals who may need assistance. Once we are aware of a pastoral care need, a committee member contacts them to let them know that we are praying for them and to ask if there is any other support we may be able to provide. *We understand it is sometimes difficult to know what others can do, but we are ready to help. Please notify Fr. Clay, the church office or Margie when you are facing a life transition.*

Many thanks to the pastoral care team members who make the ministry successful. From the ones of you who respond to every request and to the ones who help out once or twice a year, you are all a wonderful network reaching out to our Holy Apostles families with prayers, support and care.

Margie Hornor, Pastoral Care Ministry Leader
mhornor2@comcast.net

Pastoral Care: Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors, organized by Susan Kenny, visit the homebound and those in the hospital, providing compassion and taking Communion to those unable to come to church.

If you would like to serve as a Eucharistic Visitor or receive a visit from Eucharistic Visitors, please call Susan.

Susan Kenny, Eucharistic Visitor Ministry Leader
(901) 849-9090 or 3kennys@att.net

Prime Timers

The Prime Timers are a group of “older” adults who may be working or retired and who enjoy fun activities and fellowship with others.

In 2020, Prime Timers members met on Zoom every other Wednesday at 11:00 am to catch up with each other.

We usually meet (in a non-COVID year) for a monthly event. It may be a play at a local theatre, a trip to a local point of interest [e.g. museums, tours, exhibits], a pot luck lunch or dinner at the Church, a Game Night with nothing but healthy snacks [sure!], a Redbirds game for the whole family, a day trip to an area attraction, or an overnight trip to a unique site. Suggestions are welcomed.

There are no requirements to join, no fees, no applications to fill out, no dress code, and no criteria except that you want to enjoy time with others.

Anyone is welcome to join us, particularly in family events such as a Redbirds game. We won't discriminate against those who are age challenged and want to join the fun!

When possible to meet again in person, announcements of upcoming events will be in the newsletter each month. Look for us there.

We look forward to being together in 2021 and renewing friendships! Please join us.

Technology Guild

The Technology Guild believes that by volunteering our time and talent, we can enable the Holy Apostles staff to use technology to do their jobs well, for the lowest cost, enabling more dollars to be spent on the church's mission.

Like everyone, our 2020 plans were impacted by the pandemic. Some were put on hold to reduce expenses, such as establishing a relationship with an IT Support vendor. Others were accelerated, such as the implementation of livestreaming.

Listed below are some of the highlights from 2020:

- Renewed our Cisco Meraki firewall device subscription for 3 more years. We were very pleased with the benefits (smoother operations) from our initial year. A three-year renewal provides a significant price break over three one-year renewals.
- Acquired a new laptop for our Director of Finance and Operations, replacing her ten-year old desktop.
- Implemented livestreaming in November. While we are still in learning mode, this technology is already making a big difference for the church, helping people stay engaged.

Plans for 2021 include maturing our livestreaming capabilities and developing a relationship with an IT support vendor.

A special thanks goes to current members Michael Carpenter, Anil Daniel, Jim Fegley, Ronnie Kelly, Holly McDaniel, and Nancy Walczyk who make this happen.

We welcome new members. If you have an interest in technology; we hope you will join us. We meet at 6:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.

Bincy Prasad, Technology Guild Ministry Leader
bincyprasad@yahoo.com

Worship Ministries

Worship: Acolytes

As acolytes, our youth participate in an instrumental ministry in our worship life. Our typical acolyte team consists of a Crucifer (8th/9th grade – 12th grade), two Torch Bearers (3rd/4th grade – 8th/9th grade), and a Gospel Book Carrier (1st grade – 3rd/4th grade).

This ministry not only gives our youth an opportunity to be an integral part of our services, but it also provides them the foundation of experience, knowledge, and enjoyment that can help keep them engaged in the church into their adult years.

The Rev. Clay Calhoun, Associate to the Rector
clay@holypostlestn.net

Worship: Bread Bakers

Each week a volunteer donates at least four hours collectively and supplies the ingredients to bake visitor's loaves and communion bread for two of the three Sunday services at Holy Apostles.

Bread baking was suspended in early 2020 when the church stopped having in person services. When services resumed with Communion in June, wafers were used. We prayerfully look forward to the day when we can start our ministry again.

Kathy Krieger, Bread Baker Ministry Leader
skkrieger@comcast.net

Worship: Eucharistic Ministers and Master of the Bread

Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) and Masters of the Bread (MOB) assist the Priest/Celebrant in the administration of the consecrated elements (Body and Blood) during the service. Each is licensed by the Bishop and fully trained for this most important service. With additional training, an EM may also share the sacrament with members of the congregation who were unable to be present at the celebration because of illness or infirmity.

EMs served early in the year, but were not needed for the modified in-person services that started in June. We are at the ready when called to serve again.

Bob Bennett, EM/MOB Ministry Leader

bobbennett13@gmail.com

Worship: Ushers

The Usher ministry is one of welcome and hospitality. It represents the critical link in our “Invite Welcome Connect” initiative for all who come to Holy Apostles to join us in worship.

The Usher Ministry is open to all parishioners of Holy Apostles of high school age or older, male or female.

Ushers greet people at the door, offer the service bulletin and answer any questions visitors may have. They help people find seats, oversee the collection and presentation of the congregation’s offering and coordinate the movement of people in an efficient manner at the time of Holy Communion. After the service, they help to welcome visitors, collect service bulletins, and clean and straighten the pews so the church is ready for the next service or event.

In normal times, we typically scheduled 6 Ushers each Sunday – 4 at the 9:00 am service and 2 at the 11:00 am service. For the summer schedule, we have 4 Ushers at the 10:00 am service. No ushers are assigned to the 5:15 pm Bluegrass services. In addition to Sunday worship, Ushers are called upon to assist at special functions, notably funeral rites.

Prior to COVID and the reduction/suspension of in-person worship, the Usher ministry had 27 active members, 19 of whom served frequently. In order to meet the needs of the parish, our ideal roster would have 36 or more members.

When we return to in-person services, we will actively seek and welcome new members to this important ministry, and greatly appreciate the support from several “ad hoc” members of the parish community who fill vacancies from time to time.

Mike Siegel, Usher Ministry Leader

michaeljsiegel@icloud.com

Worship: Lectors/Intercessors

The volunteers who serve as a part of the Lectors & Intercessors ministry are the ones who, within the context of our corporate worship and liturgy, bring the Word of God alive by reading Lessons, Psalms, and Epistles and leading our Prayers of the People. Passages from the Bible can be read like a story,

lecture, song or poem. Our team is tasked with one thing: to bring illumination to these sacred texts. They provide joy to the celebrations, firmness to the lessons, sincerity to the prayers and, above all, human meaning to the words.

Our Lectors and Intercessors are a diverse dedicated group. Most also serve Holy Apostles in other capacities from serving on the Vestry to singing in the choir. Several members are also Eucharist Ministers as well. Scheduling of Lectors and Intercessors is based on one's preferred morning service (9:00 am or 11:00 am) and availability. Our current and active ministry participants include: Andrea Smith, Andrea Thompson, Julia Calhoun, Dave Whitehead, Betsy Leslie, Bryan Massey, Emily Siegel, Jack Siegel, Frank Potter, Franny Kavin, Kevin Kenny, Mike Siegel, Nancy Walczyk, Kathy Krieger, and Tom Carpenter.

If this is an area of lay ministry in which you are interested, please reach out to Tom Carpenter or Fr. Clay to learn more.

Tom Carpenter, Lector/Intercessor Ministry Leader
tom@holypostlestn.net

Youth

Youth Sunday – Unable to have our usually festive Youth Sunday in person, we decided to offer our annual service online. Those who watched enjoyed live music by several of our Youth – Amelia Robert, Emily Siegel and Jack Siegel – and a reading by Julia Calhoun. Isabel Dlabach, a graduating Senior, gave the youth sermon and did an amazing job!

EYC Outdoors/Care Bags – The Youth began to meet in the courtyard in person as soon as that was possible and continued through the beginning of November. During these meetings, the Youth, while socially distant and wearing masks, participated in Christian formation, games and service projects. One project, that is still ongoing, was to make Care Bags for anyone who needs them. They are hanging in the Narthex and available for anyone to give away. These bags are meant for those that may not be able to leave their home and/or attend church at this time.

EYC Wednesday Nights and Compline Live on Instagram – Throughout the pandemic, the Youth have been meeting via Zoom on Wednesday nights. We combine prayer, formation, fellowship, and fun in the hour we spend together. In December, we joined Youth at St. George's and worked together on an Advent curriculum. Also, Compline is read live on Instagram on Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm so all can participate and listen.

Cynthia McCarty, Director of Youth Ministry
cynthia@holypostlestn.net

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT January 24, 2021				
RECEIPTS		2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
	Pledge	\$768,312	\$732,757	\$641,653
	Plate/Non-Pledge	\$85,000	\$59,169	\$40,000
	Prior Year Pledge	\$1,000	\$6,990	-
	Interest Income	\$100	\$137	\$150
	Anticipated Pledges	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$854,412	\$799,053	\$681,803
EXPENSES				
Facility & Property Maintenance				
	Landscape Service	\$14,150	\$13,206	\$18,360
	Building Maintenance	\$21,560	\$23,425	\$22,695
	Janitorial Services	\$8,775	\$9,767	\$12,000
	Utilities & Security	\$57,834	\$42,582	\$45,542
	Mortgage Principal & Interest	\$94,500	\$79,405	\$80,000
	Insurance	\$8,500	\$7,628	\$7,883
TOTAL FACILITY & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE		\$205,319	\$176,013	\$186,480
Office		\$32,720	\$28,876	\$52,145
Staff		\$485,514	\$321,640	\$325,873
Programs				
	Outreach Expense	\$11,764	\$10,000	\$12,000
	Christian Education	\$8,100	\$2,919	\$3,500
	Music	\$24,575	\$13,457	\$21,325
	Hospitality & Fellowship	\$9,705	\$2,476	\$6,400
	All Other Programs	\$3,200	\$2,646	\$3,200
TOTAL PROGRAMS		\$57,344	\$31,498	\$46,425
W. TN Diocesan Pledge		\$73,015	\$73,015	\$70,380
Seminary Support		\$0	\$0	\$0
Stewardship Campaign Expenses		\$500	\$459	\$500
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$854,412	\$631,501	\$681,803
NET CHANGE IN OPERATING ASSETS		-	\$167,552	-