

Happy Holy Days

by Father Clay

Since New Testament times, Christians have ordered their lives by marking time, setting aside days and hours for prayer and worship. This is the origin of the church calendar with its various “feasts” and “holy days.” In the Episcopal Church, these days are listed and explained in the Book of Common Prayer, which commends them to be “regularly observed throughout the year”—though how a parish chooses to mark such observance is largely left to local custom.

In 2021, Holy Apostles intends periodically to offer a mid-week service (on average, monthly), to observe some of these holy days. These services will be intentionally short and simple celebrations. Because these holy days are “fixed date feasts” their observance will not always be on the same weekday or at the same time of the month, but the service will be announced several weeks in advance. Such liturgies offer the blessing of being reminded of and participating in an observance of sacred time outside of our regular, secular calendar. At the time of this writing, in-person worship in the diocese is suspended, due to the pandemic. Therefore, services will currently be livestreamed only. When circumstances permit us to gather again in person, it is also hoped that these services will be welcomed by those whose schedules make Sunday attendance challenging, or who desire an opportunity to worship corporately in a brief service whose numbers will permit plenty of social distance between worshippers.

Our first Holy Day service will be on the feast of the Epiphany: Wednesday, January 6, at 6:00 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Nominations

Our annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th at 11:00 am immediately following the 10:00am worship service. Since we are not sure if we will be worshipping in person at that time, please watch for more information. We plan to livestream the meeting, at the very least. We will let you know prior to the 24th how you can vote. If in person, it will be by show of hands; if you vote remotely, we will send an email giving you instructions how to vote via a program called Election Buddy. It gives us the ability to receive votes electronically with very quick turnaround.

Due to the pandemic, we need to vote to change the bylaws in order to vote electronically for the new Vestry members and to lower the quorum number needed. At this meeting we will vote on the bylaw changes, elect the new Vestry members, hear various ministry reports including the Parish annual address and discuss the annual budget. This is an important meeting and we urge all of you to attend either in person if possible or via livestream.

Each year, four persons are elected to the Vestry. The Vestry is charged with maintaining the building and grounds and the management of all financial matters of the Parish. To nominate a member to the Vestry, you may complete a Vestry Nomination Form, which can be found in the parish office or you can call the office to have one sent to you. A nominee must give consent to the nomination, must be a Communicant in Good Standing and, at least, 18 years old. The deadline for receiving nominations is January 19th to be included on the ballot. If you have any questions, please call the office at (901) 937-3830. Information regarding the Vestry nominees will be available on our website and at the church.

Counting Our Blessings

from the Stewardship Committee

As we welcome 2021, a vaccine, and the promise of normalcy again, members of the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry want to express our deepest thanks to this year’s pledgers. With your unwavering support during this unprecedented time, we are now able to forecast what we can accomplish in this new and promising year.

One hundred and eight families and individuals pledged to this year’s Walk in Love campaign. Joyfully, we can announce that sixty-one of you increased your pledge. To everyone who has committed financially to support the ministries of Holy Apostles - through pledging or planned plate offerings - thank you, thank you, thank you!

We did not make our goal of maintaining 2020 budget numbers, but we did raise over \$640,000, and with the anticipated plate/non-pledge funds we expect to reach approximately \$700,000 for the 2021 budget year. Like all of us during this challenging time, we have tightened our belts over the last year, and we will continue to do so until we can get back to those precious normal times.

If you have not pledged, it is never too late to begin; the parish will always gratefully accept your support. Contact Holly McDaniel to facilitate pledged giving at any time. If you give through plate/non-pledge, please keep Holy Apostles in your weekly budget and at the top of your mind.

We are blessed! We are blessed with a wonderful, caring, church community. We are blessed with friendships, collaborations, and volunteer opportunities. We are blessed with a great church staff, inspiring sermons, and meaningful services. We hope that you count your church family in your blessings as you look to the new year.

**Holy Apostles
Youth**



**EYC
6th - 12th
Graders**

**Family Devotions for
Epiphany
Starting January 10th**

During the season of Epiphany, we will have family devotions on Sundays at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

On January 6th, EYC fellowship and formation will continue on **Wednesday nights at 7:15 pm on Zoom** followed by **Compline Live on Instagram at 8:00 pm**. Follow the link in your weekly email.

Check us out on Twitter or Instagram @holypostlestn or like our Holy Apostles Youth Page on Facebook!

Rector Search Committee Update

We had a great response to our Parish Survey, with 183 completed responses! Thanks to all who took the time to provide your thoughts and perspectives. The cross pictured here was created based on the survey results. It is comprised of the words and phrases that you provided about your favorite characteristic of Holy Apostles. The more times a word was mentioned, the larger it appears in the image.



Last month, the Committee spent time in meetings with Bishop Phoebe Roaf and Canon Sharon Alexander, gaining their perspectives and counsel on the search process. In the coming weeks, we will be compiling the results of the survey and using that information to complete our Ministry Profile, which describes the characteristics and attributes we are seeking in our new rector, along with statistical information about our church and its membership.

This is an exciting time for Holy Apostles, and we ask your continued prayers for Holy Apostles and the Search Committee as we continue on our journey to identify our new Rector.

Our New Deacon - The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott



As most of you know by now, I am Gerri Endicott, the new (and perhaps first) Vocational Deacon here at Church of the Holy Apostles. I have been with you for a few weeks now, and wish to thank you for the warm welcome. For my first little while here I will be acclimating myself and learning about the ministries and people of Holy Apostles, with special attention to Outreach.

I am a native Memphian, and lifelong Episcopalian. My childhood was spent attending St. John's Church and Grace-St. Luke's School. My husband, Alan, and I moved to Oakland just over 15 years ago. We have two adult daughters, Tina and Jessica. Jessica is married to Wesley, and they have a son – our wonderful, energetic, 5-year old grandson, Linus.

I was ordained a Vocational Deacon in June of 2018 following completion of the ACTS (Alternate Clergy Training at Sewanee) program at The School of Theology at The University of The South. I have been serving one of the Diocese's mission communities until recently. Following consultation with Bishop Phoebe, Canon Sharon, Father Clay and wardens, Diana and Jim, I am pleased to have been assigned to Holy Apostles to exercise my Diaconal ministry.

As the ministry of a Deacon involves the world outside the walls of the Church, and is a ministry of service, rather than a career, I also hold a regular job. I am employed as a Mortgage Underwriter, working remotely from home.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you as time goes on, either in person or virtually. We have had one "Meet the Deacon" Zoom meeting, and I plan to schedule more after the first of the year, at varying times. These meetings will give us a chance to get to know each other. You'll also learn some about the Vocational Diaconate - what I will be doing, and why.

Holy Hikers

January 9th

Holy Hikers will enjoy the scenery, excitement and brevity of one of the most spectacular Memphis sites on Saturday, January 9th, when we "walk on water" across the Mississippi River Bridge to Arkansas! The Great River Walk begins at the Unitarian Church and Channel 3 parking areas and crosses the river on the first Memphis Bridge, the Harahan. The views are great! You may see a barge tow or two pass below. It's an easy walk of about a mile and a half. Pets on leashes are invited. Children on bikes, scooters or strollers are welcome!

We hope you will gather the family and friends and join us for a socially distanced walk in the fresh air. Dress for the weather in layers (who knows what that will be?!). Water and snacks are always nice but not necessary for such a short hike. If you want to get rid of Christmas treats, bring them along to share!

Meet at the parking lot at 9:00 am and join us for a fun hike! Call Frank Potter for details (901-230-1818). We hope to see you there!

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.

Thank you!

- 2020 Recipients of Direct Assistance:
- St. Columba Episcopal Camp & Retreat Center
 - Grace St. Luke's (More than a Meal)
 - Page Robbins Adult Day Center
 - Church Health Center
 - Collierville Food Pantry
 - MIFA
 - West TN Haiti Partnership
 - Samaritan Counseling Center
 - Episcopal Relief & Development

Adult Forum and Christian Education

Our 2020-2021 Adult Formation & Christian Education series, *Walk In Love - Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, resumes beginning on Sunday, January 10th, after a two-week pause for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. This video presentation series has hopefully focused our collective attention on what it means to be an Episcopalian by looking at what we believe and why we believe these things. In addition, our regular schedule of adult Bible study groups will also continue through January according to our normal weekly schedules.

While this has been a challenging time for all of us due to the meeting restrictions necessary to stay safe and healthy, I am deeply grateful for your continued faithfulness and participation in these programmatic offerings. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or feedback about these and/or future offerings here at Holy Apostles.

Adult Forum Topic Schedule for January, 2021

Sunday, January 3rd - Happy New Year! (no presentation this week)

Sunday, January 10th - *Accept and Fulfill Our Petitions, Prayer*

Sunday, January 17th - *Defend Your Church, Structure and Governance*

Sunday, January 24th - Annual Parish Meeting (no presentation)

Sunday, January 31st - *That Wonderful and Sacred Story, The Church*

A Message from Diana Kelly, Senior Warden

I want to make you aware of a decision by the Vestry concerning the calling of an Interim Rector to Holy Apostles. After much prayerful consideration, the Vestry decided to postpone the hiring of an Interim Rector for the near future. This decision was made after considering several factors. First, I want to tell you what a wonderful job Father Clay and the Holy Apostles staff members have done during these tough times. They have managed to take many of our ministries online and have increased the frequency of communication to the Parish. I have attended their staff meetings weekly and know first hand their hard work, flexibility and creativity to ensure Holy Apostles maintains as many offerings as possible with the restrictions we have.

Unfortunately the pledge commitments are coming in slowly for 2021 and are down some from last year. We are hopeful that this will improve next year as the ability to return to more normal church offerings and our ability to bring in new members returns. We are also hopeful, that any overage we have this year due to the PPP loans, when forgiven, can be applied to the 2021 budget year to ensure we are able to move forward as planned.

The decision to postpone hiring an interim was made because we want to be financially responsible and ensure that, when we call a new Rector, hopefully next year, we will be in a strong financial position to do so.

With in-person church activities currently limited, we have every confidence that Father Clay, Deacon Gerri Endicott, and staff can make sure all ministries and pastoral needs are met.

Holy Apostles has much to look forward to in the next few years. We are financially stable and plan to remain so, we have a wonderful group of dedicated parishioners, and we are in an area that is growing. Once the pandemic is over, we can look forward to better times with a new Rector!

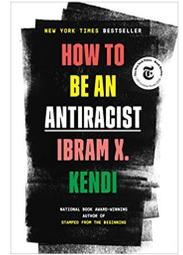
Please do not hesitate to reach out to Father Clay, Staff or any member of the Vestry if you have questions or concerns. Please be safe and Happy New Year to you all!

Walk in Love, Diana Kelly

Reading with Holy Apostles: January

Reading with Holy Apostles

book club will meet to discuss our January selection, *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi on Tuesday, January 19th via **Zoom** at 6:30 pm. Check your weekly HA email for the link.



#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • From the National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped from the Beginning* comes a “ground-breaking” (*Time*) approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society—and in ourselves.

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The New York Times Book Review* • *Time* • NPR • *The Washington Post* • *Shelf Awareness* • *Library Journal* • *Publishers Weekly* • *Kirkus Reviews*

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

§ HONORED & REMEMBERED §

In memory of Cliff Ewing

Anonymous

In memory of Jack Kenny

Ms. Sue McKnight

In memory of Sue and Stephen Thompson

The Akira Kawashima Family

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Thompson

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (EPISCOPAL)

1380 Wolf River Blvd.
Collierville, TN 38017

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
COLLIERVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 12

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Office: 901.937.3830
Fax: 901.937.3837

www.holyapostlestn.net
info@holyapostlestn.net



THE ACTS JANUARY 2021

Weekly Offerings

Sunday

Morning Prayer at 10:00 am via livestream on our YouTube channel.
Children's Chapel/Sunday School lesson on Facebook.
Family Devotions via Zoom at 6:00 pm.
Bluegrass Evening Prayer at 5:15 pm on Facebook.

Monday

Men's Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 am.

Tuesday

Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday

Morning Prayer with Father Clay at 10:00 am on Facebook.
Prime Timers Zoom Gathering via Zoom at 11:00 am (*every other week*).
Compline for Parish Choir via Zoom at 7:00 pm.
EYC Midweek via Zoom at 7:15 pm.
EYC Compline at 8:00 pm on Instagram.

Thursday

Women's Bible Study via Zoom at 11:00 am.
Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Friday

Compline with Father Clay at 8:00 pm on Facebook.

For more information on these and other events at Holy Apostles, visit our website (www.holyapostlestn.net), where you can sign up for our weekly email announcements.

Like us on Facebook (@hapostles) and follow us on Twitter (@hapostles) and Instagram (holyapostlestn).