

*Providing a welcoming community in which all can, with open hearts and open minds, receive God's grace through worship, fellowship, learning and outreach to others.*

## *Easter Greetings*

*from Father Clay*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! (You know the response!) Throughout the world, for centuries, these have been the words with which Christians have greeted one another during Easter season. One of the small countercultural aspects of our faith that I enjoy is finding ways to keep and celebrate Easter throughout these Fifty Days (just as I enjoy wishing people 'Merry Christmas' throughout the Twelve Days of that season). Easter Day is the crown of the Christian year—and what a beautiful and joyous day it was at Holy Apostles—but we are only just halfway through 'this joyful Eastertide.' On Sundays, the alleluias keep coming, the glorious Easter hymns continue, and we hear in the Gospels the various accounts of the risen Jesus. He comes to those he loves, not merely to appear, but for a purpose—he forgives those who failed him, he comforts and strengthens the fearful, he empowers the disciples to continue his ministry.

Forty days into the Easter season, we celebrate the Ascension (May 13th this year). In one sense, it is Jesus leaving us, to return again to his rightful place with the Father. But in another sense, the Ascension is Jesus becoming more powerfully present than ever—'the cosmic Christ,' now for all the world, and no longer confined to a particular place, time, and people. At his departing, the disciples follow his instruction and wait to be 'clothed with power from on high'—the Spirit descends on them in power on the day of Pentecost (which we will commemorate on May 23rd this year), as it descends on each of us in baptism.

Our worship through the Sundays of Easter helps us to continue to celebrate, but how else might we keep this season? Admittedly, fifty days is a long time to maintain a celebration! What might it mean for you to celebrate the Resurrection for an entire season, rather than a single day? What does it mean to be 'Easter people'? Pray for grace that, like the disciples at Emmaus, your eyes may be opened to recognize the risen Lord when he comes alongside you. Pray also for wisdom and a will to know how to, in the words of Wendell Berry, 'practice resurrection.'

## *May Holy Days: The Ascension and The Visitation*

Simple midday services of Holy Eucharist will be offered for the following holy days this month.

These liturgies are in-person in the nave, and last approximately 30 minutes.

**Ascension Day: Thursday, May 13th, 12:30 pm**

**The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Monday, May 31st, 12:30 pm**

*"Magnify, my soul, God's greatness; in my Savior I rejoice;  
all the ages call me blessed, in his praise I lift my voice;  
he has cast down all the mighty, and the lowly are his choice."*

*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

*~Hymn 269*



*Holy Apostles  
Youth*



EYC  
6th - 12th  
Graders

**May 2nd**

11:30 am  
Picnic at Johnson Park  
Meet at Johnson Park at  
Wolf River Blvd and Byhalla Rd in Collierville (in the parking lot near the spray park)

**May 9th**

10:00 am  
**Youth Sunday & Graduating Senior Recognition**  
Before the service, we will honor our graduating seniors. If you or a loved one are graduating this spring, please join us!  
If you would like to participate in the service, email Cynthia (cynthia@holypostlestin.net)

**Watch for upcoming summer EYC pop-up events throughout the summer!**

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

**§ HONORED & REMEMBERED §**

*In memory of Earl Morris*  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dunn  
Ms. Margie Hornor  
Mr. and Mrs. Vic McDaniel  
Mr. and Mrs. David Olive  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Pecon  
Mrs. Bryce Smith

**YOUTH SUNDAY**

Sunday, May 9th at 10:00am

**Come Celebrate the youth of Holy Apostles & honor our Graduates with a Youth led Service!**

If you would like to help serve for this Service or have a graduating student, Please email [cynthiakmccarty@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiakmccarty@gmail.com)

*Spring Clean-Up and Planting*



Please join us for a much needed work day at the church on May 1st from 9:00 am - 12 pm. We will be tearing out old bushes and planting new so bring your shovels, rakes and yard gloves. We also need to do some general clean up chores around the property. Any help is appreciated!

*Rector Search Update*

The Search Committee continues to make great progress in our preparations for the official posting of our Rector Search. The Parish Profile – a comprehensive overview of our parish life and ministries – is in the final stages of design. This Profile is among the most important sources of information that candidates will use as they consider applying for the position as our next rector. We anticipate completion within the next 2-3 weeks, at which time, we will be prepared to open our search.

You might think of this process as similar to selling your home. All the facts and figures about your home, taxes, and history are listed in the MLS database. But the compelling aspects of your home are shown in the photos and descriptions of the many attributes that make your home special. In this analogy, the OTM Portfolio is like our MLS listing (facts and figures, plus some narrative) and the Parish Profile is the sales brochure. And, as with presenting your home for sale, you're going to invest in "sprucing up" the property to improve your curb appeal. That's exactly why we are having another parish work day on May 1 to make our grounds as attractive as possible for candidates who may come to visit.

This is an exciting time for Holy Apostles, and your Search Committee is dedicated to the process, representing the needs and interests of the entire parish community, as we identify our next rector. Please continue to keep the Vestry, our clergy, our staff and this committee in your prayers as we continue our journey of discernment. And, as always, we invite you to reach out to any member of the Rector Search Committee with questions or comments.

Submitted on behalf of the Rector Search Committee by Mike Siegel, Chair and Judy Potter, Co-Chair.

*Sunday School  
for Families*

Sunday School for Families will continue to be posted on Facebook every Sunday during the summer. If your family would like to lead a Sunday lesson, or if you have any questions about the lesson, email Cynthia (cynthia@holypostlestin.net)

*May 1st*

## Adult Forum and Christian Education

During the month of May, we will be wrapping up our year-long adult formation and Christian education series, *Walk In Love - Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, based upon a book by the same name recently written by Episcopal priests, Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. The book has effectively provided us with a great roadmap of topics and discussions by which we have been able to better understand our particular branch of the Christian faith. If you have not yet had a chance to watch these presentations, or may have missed a few along the way, all of the discussion videos are archived in chronological order on the parish website, and can be accessed by clicking on the 'Adult Christian Education' and then the 'Adult Forum' tabs.

Here are the topics we will be covering in May:

### Sunday, May 2

*The Work You Give Us To Do, Christian Vocation*

### Sunday, May 9

Walk In Love Series, Year End Wrap-Up Session

Finally, our four Adult Bible Study groups will be taking the summer off beginning in June, but will be restarting (hopefully in person) in the fall. I am currently reviewing our options for small group Bible study materials, as well as developing ideas for our 2021 - 2022 Adult Christian Education series. As such, I would very much appreciate your input on things that you would like to see us covering. Please contact me at any time at [tom@holypostle.net](mailto:tom@holypostle.net). Thank you for all of your dedication and support to this important ministry during this past year.

## Holy Hikers

May 8th

The Holy Hikers will journey to Village Creek State Park near Wynne, AR, for our hike on May 8th. Meet at the church at 9:00 am and we'll try to carpool (safely)! It will take us about an hour to get to the park.

Once we arrive, we will have a choice of several trails to take with different lengths and degrees of difficulty. None are strenuous, but there will be some hills. Wild flowers and foliage should be in full bloom, so bring your camera phone!

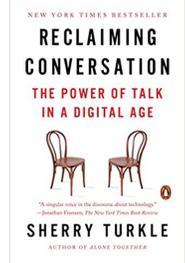
Also bring a lunch, plenty of liquid, and dress for the weather, preferably in layers. As we hike, you're sure to warm up! Sturdy shoes and sunscreen are good to include.

We should return to the church about 4:00 pm. We hope you'll join us! Call Frank Potter for details (901-230-1818).



## Reading with Holy Apostles: May

Reading with Holy Apostles book club will meet to discuss our May selection, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* by Sherry Turkle on Tuesday, May 18th via Zoom at 6:30 pm. Check your weekly HA email for the link.



Renowned media scholar Sherry Turkle investigates how a flight from conversation undermines our relationships, creativity, and productivity—and why reclaiming face-to-face conversation can help us regain lost ground.

We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. And yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection.

Preeminent author and researcher Sherry Turkle has been studying digital culture for over thirty years. Long an enthusiast for its possibilities, here she investigates a troubling consequence: at work, at home, in politics, and in love, we find ways around conversation, tempted by the possibilities of a text or an email in which we don't have to look, listen, or reveal ourselves.

The case for conversation begins with the necessary conversations of solitude and self-reflection. They are endangered: these days, always connected, we see loneliness as a problem that technology should solve. Afraid of being alone, we rely on other people to give us a sense of ourselves, and our capacity for empathy and relationship suffers. We see the costs of the flight from conversation everywhere: conversation is the cornerstone for democracy and in business it is good for the bottom line. In the private sphere, it builds empathy, friendship, love, learning, and productivity.

But there is good news: we are resilient. Conversation cures.

# CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (EPISCOPAL)

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THE ACTS MAY 2021

### *Weekly Offerings*

#### Sunday

**Holy Eucharist** at 10:00 am in the Nave and via livestream on our YouTube channel.

**Children's Chapel/Sunday School lesson** on Facebook.

**Bluegrass Evening Prayer** at 5:15 pm in the Nave. (Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month)

#### 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.

**Compline** for Parish Choir via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

#### 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.holyapostlesth.net](http://www.holyapostlesth.net)), where you can sign up for our weekly email announcements.

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