

# ARChive

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

**Church of the Holy Apostles**  
**1593 Lynnhaven Pkwy**  
**Virginia Beach, VA 23453-2008**  
**[www.holyapostlesvb.org](http://www.holyapostlesvb.org)**



**Catholic Diocese of Richmond**  
**[www.richmonddiocese.org](http://www.richmonddiocese.org)**  
**Episcopal Diocese of So. Virginia**  
**[www.diosiva.org](http://www.diosiva.org)**

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**Sunday Worship**  
**10:30 am**

**Official Monthly Publication of**  
**Church of the Holy Apostles**

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**Deadline for submission is the**  
**3rd Tuesday of the month.**



## *A Message from Deacon Gary*

Dear Holy Apostles' Friends,

I expect many (if not all) of you are as disappointed as I am with the lack of progress in getting over the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been living with this virus and its effects for nearly 18 months. We, as Americans, are not patient people. We tend to want things to happen quickly and then be over. It doesn't mean we aren't willing to sacrifice, but our tolerance for the duration of sacrificing is finite.

The introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine about nine months ago resulted in a drop of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. There was a sense that the worst was behind us and that better days were ahead. Viruses (as we know) have their own propensity to propagate and change (mutate) to survive. With the Delta variant and its increased contagiousness, the country's progress has been dealt a setback. We are once again seeing case numbers rise to the same levels as at the height of the pandemic in early January.

Neither the Catholic nor the Episcopal Dioceses have issued new mandates for churches to follow. The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia has left it up to rectors and Vestries to decide how they will handle their local current surge. By the time this ARChive reaches you, there may be a mandate promulgated. But currently, the decision of what to do is left in the hands of your Vestry Council (being advised by the Health Equity Team consisting of Father Mario, Deacon Gary, Andrea Whyte and Catherine Melendez). At our August 17th Vestry Council meeting, the decision was made to strongly encourage members to wear masks to the August 22nd service, and require masks starting Sunday, August 29 until case numbers decline. Some Episcopal rectors and Vestries have gone further and have returned to virtual services only. That option was briefly discussed for Holy Apostles but without a suspension of the obligation for Catholics to attend weekly Mass (which was previously granted), Vestry Council did not want to take that step. Instead, Vestry Council decided to rely upon the cooperation of members to wear their masks, even though some may be personally opposed to such a decision.

We are encouraged by the number of members that have shared with us that they have been vaccinated. We strongly encourage those not yet vaccinated to get the vaccination as soon as they can (or as soon as it is available for younger members).

We are in uncharted territory and we are trying to do what is right to keep our community safe and healthy. We understand your views may vary from those of the Vestry Council, but as the leadership representatives of the

***We choose love over division, unity over separation and Christ above all things.***



## Liturgy Volunteers

September	5	12	19	26
WORSHIP COORD.	Mike Meehan	Mike Meehan	Mike Meehan	Mike Meehan
LECTOR	A Delaney	J Arnold	J Lucas	N Ragland
READER	B Kimpan	P Salisbury	D Dickerson	M Meehan
EPISCOPAL EUCHARISTIC MIN.	J Tucker	N Ragland	C Mills	B Startt
ACOLYTES	B Hormuth	N Nichter	T Frey	W & B McDaniel
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter & Lowe	Startt	S Delaney	Frey
COUNTERS	L Startt & P Russo	G Leighton & M Meehan	K Nichter & M Mills	M Cherwa & S Stanley

October	3	10	17	24	31
WORSHIP COORD.					
LECTOR	G Leighton	A Cherwa	K Ashby	B Startt	L Carpenter
READER	N Ragland	K Meeks	C Mills	L Startt	A Whyte
EPISCOPAL EUCHARISTIC MIN.	A Cherwa	D Dickerson	B Startt	A Whyte	J Tucker
ACOLYTES	B Hormuth	T Frey	W & B McDaniel	N Nichter	T Frey
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter	Startt	S Delaney	Frey	Lowe
COUNTERS	L Pace & K Meeks	L Startt & M Mills	G Leighton & S Stanley	K Nichter & M Meehan	M Cherwa & P Russo

## A Message from Deacon Gary continued

community, we prefer to err on the side of caution, rather than run the risk of exposing members to a potentially lethal virus. We count on your cooperation and appreciate your understanding and tolerance.

Please join me in praying that we are soon able to put this pandemic behind us.

Faithfully, *Deacon Gary*



### Donations to the Operating Fund are very welcome

Our designated funds (Manna, Discretionary, Social Ministry) are currently adequately funded thanks to your generous donations. If you give regularly to a designated fund, please consider making contributions to the General Operating Fund for the time being.



## Altar Flower Donations

Fresh flowers add immensely to our worship service. Celebrate a special birthday, wedding anniversary, or dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one.

To donate flowers, complete a flower form or call the office and donate \$45.



**Whoever you are and wherever you are in your spiritual and personal life,  
we welcome you to the Ecumenical Community of Holy Apostles.**



## **One Worship Service; Two Liturgies** **BEGINS AT 10:30 a.m.** **Attend in person** **or watch on Facebook Live**

We were established 43 years ago to be a symbol of ecumenism honoring both the Roman Catholic and Episcopal traditions. We have One Worship Service with Two Liturgies. Our worship is designed for you to experience both traditions. As a sign of our commitment to Christian unity, we ask everyone to remain for both liturgies.



There is a lot of work to be done for the kingdom of Christ, but few people willing to do the work ([Matthew 9:37](#)). Don't be afraid to simply start serving; there is a place for you. As you serve, trust that God will equip you, guide you, and give you joy for the work. Find delight in doing the things He has planned for you ([Ephesians 2:10](#); [Colossians 3:17](#), [23](#)).

## **Annual Meeting & Vestry Council Elections on September 12**

Our Annual Meeting and Vestry Council Elections will be held on Sunday, September 12 after worship. Please join us for this very important meeting.

Nominations are needed to fill positions on Vestry Council. We will elect 2 Episcopalians and 1 Roman Catholic.

## **Fall Fling on October 10**

Our popular Fall Fling will return this October.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 10.

"Operation 1593" will raise money for Holy Apostles' operating fund.

Join us for good music, food, and fellowship.

Watch for details coming soon.



## *Highlights from Vestry Council August 17, 2021*

### **Finance Council Report: Treasurer – Mike Meehan (Treasurer)**

#### **Financial Update: July 2021**

YTD Income: \$ 161,595.67  
YTD Expense: \$ 137,018.68  
**YTD Excess: \$ 24,576.99**

July Income: \$ 28,639.56  
July Expenses: \$ 16,827.30  
**Net Income: \$ 11,812.26**

- ◆ Overall, we are financially in good shape, but the distribution of income has been problematic. In the past, we often requested funds to be designated for Discretionary Fund, Manna and Capital Improvements and your response has always been generous. Since the pandemic and various government support programs, our Discretionary Fund has adequate funds for the foreseeable future. Because of diocesan grants, Manna is well funded. Capital Improvements funds are enough to meet our current needs (although we have the resurfacing of the parking lot coming up in a couple of years). Our major deficit is in our general operating fund (the fund that pays for building maintenance, liturgy, administration, music, liturgy, staff, utilities, etc.).
- ◆ In the past, the annual budget for the following year was given at our Annual Meeting in September. The budget was a projection but did not reflect actual pledges for the upcoming year. The Stewardship Campaign begins after the annual meeting in October and pledges are due in early November. For 2022, Vestry Council approved moving the budget presentation to its November meeting giving Finance Council more time to develop a more realistic budget.
- ◆ The new HVAC unit for the office has been installed and came in under budget.
- ◆ A contract for cleaning services has been signed. Five proposals were considered. “The Bored Housewife” is bonded and insured and has a reasonable monthly fee. The contractor started with a deep cleaning of all spaces and will clean once weekly.
- ◆ We received a quote to improve the sound system in the worship space.
- ◆ The Vestry Council asks members to pray for Katy & Rodrigo Fabila on the sudden passing of their daughter Stephanie Lewellen.
- ◆ The Administration Committee is currently creating a list of jobs that need to be done around the building from small to large projects. [Once posted, members can volunteer \(individually or in groups\) to do the projects.](#)
- ◆ Charlie Mills will serve as delegate and Kim Nichter will serve as alternate for the Episcopal Annual Council meeting in 2022.
- ◆ The Vestry Council by-laws give conflicting guidance on who can fill non-Catholic vacancies on Vestry Council. Two areas say someone who is an active member of the community but the other says only an Episcopal member. Father Mario will ask Bishop Haynes for a ruling.
- ◆ Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, September 12, 2021 after worship.
- ◆ Our Fall Fling will raise funds for the general operating fund with a theme of “Operation 1593” (the numeric portion of Holy Apostles’ street address). The social will be in café style. Adult beverages will be served with cash donations accepted. Proposed dates are Sundays October 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> – TBA. (Since the meeting, the date has been finalized, October 10<sup>th</sup>).



## *Highlights from Vestry Council Continued*

- ♦ Adult Christian Formation (ACF) will resume shortly to be held before worship (starting at 9:30 AM and concluding no later than 10:15). The ACF committee will develop a program theme and curriculum for the year.
- ♦ The Vestry Council is still investigating handicap accessibility and new door locks for our main entry.
- ♦ The Nominating/Election Committee members are Kim, Kay and Carolyn (the out-going members of the VC) and they will ask past members to assist in filling of vacancies.
- ♦ Due to health concerns, it is planned to hold our annual VC/Committee Co-chair retreat at Holy Apostles on a Saturday in October. We are looking for a facilitator. If any member has a suggestion, please share it with either Jackie or Whitney.
- ♦ As the COVID-19 positivity rate has now surpassed 11% in our area, Vestry Council has approved a proposal to return to mask wearing and social distancing (where possible). On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> signs will be posted and announcements made that masks are strongly encouraged but the following Sunday (August 29<sup>th</sup>) mask wearing will be required. Bishop Susan Haynes has given each Vestry the authority to implement the necessary steps they need to, to keep their congregations safe. Some Episcopal churches in the area are returning to virtual services only. Our Vestry Council opted not to go that route, but rather mandate masks. It is hoped, for the safety of all, members will understand and comply.
- ♦ The Christian Ecumenical Network's (CEN) mission is linked to LARCUM. The current co-chairs are stepping down and the question raised was whether HA should take on this leadership role, since it relates to why, as a community, we exist. Further discussion and a willing volunteer(s) would need to be identified.
- ♦ The Vestry Council approved the use of an outside paid cantor.

## **2020-2021 Vestry Council**

### **Focus on Ecumenism and Membership/Outreach**

Jackie Lucas (RC 2022) - President

Whitney McDaniel (E 2023) - Warden

Kay Ashby (RC 2021)

Mike Cherwa (RC 2022)

Joann Mancuso (RC 2023)

Carolyn Ferguson (E 2021)

Andrea Whyte (E 2022)

Charlie Mills (E 2023)

Kim Nichter (E 2021)

Matthew Wood (RC 2023)

Secretary - Julia Hatcher

Clergy - Fr. Mario Meléndez and Deacon Gary Harmeyer

### **New Vestry Council Members Needed**

2 Episcopalians and 1 Roman Catholic are needed to run for Vestry Council. The election will be in September. Nomination forms are on the Greeter's Table.

### **Co-Chairs Needed for Stewardship**

Our Stewardship Committee needs Co-chairs to help plan and implement our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Time, Talent, and Treasure are vital to the life and health of our congregation. The Stewardship Campaign begins in October. Please ask Whitney McDaniel, Joe Claunch or Annette Cherwa for more information.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

YOUR MINIONS  
LOVE YOU



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

James Drews	2	Lucas Wood	20
Charles Pefley	4	John McDonald	21
Nicholas Kimpan	7	Dianne Marzec	24
Jo-Anne Blessing	9	Megan Wood	29
Kay Robbins	18		

Prayer for a Birthday: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Marriage lets you  
annoy one  
special  
person  
for the  
rest of  
your life.



### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Perez

September 1, 2008

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hale

September 23, 2006

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mills

September 19, 1987

Prayer for a wedding anniversary: We join these couples in their joy and gratitude for the blessings they are to each other. God set them among us as a sign of his love and perseverance; they have endured life's ups and downs yet remain committed. We give thanks for the favors you have bestowed upon them. May God keep them ever in love with each other. *Amen*.

### In our Prayers

*Pray for the sick, for inpatient children at CHKD,*

*Pray for everyone affected by COVID-19.*

*Pray for those suffering job losses, those feeling isolated and frightened.*

*Pray for health care workers, especially Catherine Meléndez, Andrea Whyte, Kelly Hormuth,*

*Katy Fabila and Carmen Perez*

**If you want to place someone on the prayer list, please notify the office.**

**Individual prayers are published weekly on Thursday by email.**

### Stay Connected

For pastoral care, please call or email your clergy

Fr. Mario: 706-631-6299 - mpmelend@bu.edu  
Deacon Gary: 757-735-2227 - garyharmeyer@gmail.com



## *Ecumenism*

### **Daily Word from Jean Koch**

'One of the great needs of interchurch couples is eucharistic sharing. This need arises from the church's conviction that baptism and Eucharist are intimately and inseparably united. Communion in Christ is deepened by the sacrament of marriage, which interchurch couples have also received.' Ernest Falardeau, SSS in "Eucharist and Family: Essential to Communion"

Source: [interchurchfamilies.org](http://interchurchfamilies.org)

### **Library Assistant Needed**

In an effort to educate and understand more about Ecumenism we are organizing and expanding our library. If you are interested in volunteering to organize and maintain our church Library, please contact Charlie Mills at 757-547-3573.

### **Interesting websites and resources on Ecumenism**

There is so much to know about Ecumenism and this link is very informative. Jean Koch provides quotes from [Interchurchfamilies.org](http://Interchurchfamilies.org) to prove different faiths doesn't mean divided.

[www.interchurchfamilies.org](http://www.interchurchfamilies.org)



**Let all Nations and Peoples**



**If you want to help or learn more about Ecumenism, please contact Charlie Mills or any member of Vestry Council.**

**If you have ideas on how to get our message out, please tell us, by phone, email, text, or even in person .  
As they saying goes "It takes a village ".**



## *Membership / Outreach*

### **Fellowship/Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed**

If you enjoy gathering after worship for refreshments and fellowship, please sign up to help. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen. We need volunteers to host, help with serving food, beverages, and clean up.

Sept 5	Host:	Serve/beverages/clean up:
Sept 12	Host:	Serve/beverages/clean up:
Sept 19	Host:	Serve/beverages/clean up:



## *Membership / Outreach*



### **Mangia Qui - Great food and fellowship**

Please join us for great food and fellowship at Mangia Qui on the last Sunday of each month. Our September date for fun, conversation, and pasta is **Sunday**, September 26. The staff will begin taking orders at 1 pm. Please sign up in the hallway.

Mangia Qui, 5550 Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach

### **Utility and Rent Assistance**

We provide \$50 once a year for residents of Virginia Beach who need assistance with their water, gas or electric bills and now, \$100 once a year for rent assistance. These funds are provided by the **Discretionary Fund**, grants from Catholic and Episcopal Dioceses and generous donations from members of Holy Apostles. **Your donations to The Discretionary Fund are greatly appreciated.** And many thanks to Nick Nichter for his ministry.

**Utility and Rent Assistance is provided the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 1-3 pm.**

### **Manna Pantry September 13-17**

Here's the list of items we need: peanut butter, jelly, cereal, granola snack bars, canned tuna & chicken, ramen, mustard, ketchup, pasta & sauce, mac-n-cheese, canned fruit, rice, instant potatoes, hamburger/tuna helper, oatmeal packets and Food Lion gift cards.

Make donations to "Manna" through online giving or by check. Thank you for supporting the Manna Program and helping our neighbors in need.

### **Blessing for the new school year and of the Backpacks on September 5**

We will have a special blessing for teachers, school workers, Sunday school teachers, Bible Study leaders, and students on Sunday, September 5. Students, please bring your school backpacks to church on Sunday, September 5 for a special blessing.

### **Bible Study Begins September 7**

The bible study committee is happy to announce the resumption of our weekly study. The first session will be on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 10 am. The subject for the first block will be prayer, and specifically, the lord's prayer. Come join us for some education, good conversations, and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Delaney or Norma Ragland.

### **PLARN Group Works Together**

Join the fun from 9 am-12 noon on Thursday. Plarn is the process of turning plastic grocery bags into yarn. We give the plastic yarn (Plarn) to volunteers at Essential Church who use it to crochet sleeping mats for homeless kids. Please join us for conversation and laughter while making a difference.