

# ARChive

MAY 2021

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

**Church of the Holy Apostles**  
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**[www.diosiva.org](http://www.diosiva.org)**

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



## *A Message from Deacon Gary Harmeyer*

Dear Holy Apostles' Friends,

I'm sure you will all agree it was good news to hear that Father Mario plans to return from his short-term disability on Tuesday, May 4th. One member put it bluntly when she said that May was Mental Health Awareness month and Father Mario's openness with his struggle with depression was courageous when many people would be inclined to hide their diagnosis. His openness will help others face similar challenges without the shame that some associate with any mental health issue.

At services on both Sunday, April 18th and Sunday, April 25th, Father Mario's letter to Holy Apostles was read. It states:

*April 15, 2021*

*Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!*

*First, I want to thank each of you for your support, prayers, cards, and so many other signs of love that you have given to my beloved Catherine and yours truly during my short-term disability. I cannot tell you how affirming it feels to those of us with mental health issues to be embraced in this matter.*

*I write to share the good news that my therapy team believes that I am ready to once again be with you and return to ministry. If it is our Heavenly Father's will, I will be back on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021. I am very excited about restarting our journey together in discerning the will of God for us, and preaching with our words and actions the gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to once again to holding up the blessed sacrament at the altar and sharing with you the gifts of God for the people of God.*

*In the meantime, please continue to keep us in your prayers. I also have a request: this evening say a short prayer for anyone struggling with mental health issues. Once again muchas gracias, thank you, and may the blessing of the holy and undivided Trinity be with you all.*

*Paz,*

*Fr. (Padre) Mario P. Melendez*

Per Father Mario's request, our Sunday Evening Prayer Service, on both April 18th and April 25th, were dedicated to anyone struggling with mental health issues.

These are trying times for so many and prayer will help us to get through by leaning on him that gives us certainty and hope – the risen Jesus Christ!

Alleluia!

Deacon Gary

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



## Liturgy Volunteers

MAY	2	9	16	23	30
LECTOR	J Flowers	D Dickerson	M Meehan	A Cherwa	J Tucker
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Deacon Gary	N Felton	Deacon Gary	A Cherwa	N Ragland
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter & Lowe	Startt	S Delaney	Frey	Nichter & Lowe
COUNTERS	P Russo & S Stanley	L Startt & K Meek	G Leighton & K Nichter	L Pace & M Mills	M Cherwa & M Meehan



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

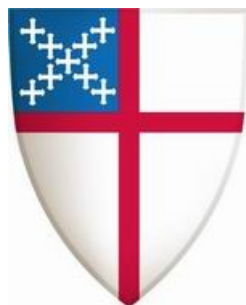
### Our Mission

Remembering that we, as a unique community of Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, are entrusted with a vision of God's action in His people, we declare that we have been called to a new venture in the history of the Church.

As the Church of the Holy Apostles, we are called to be a living sign of the Church's efforts toward organic unity, and to promote ecumenical ventures among Christian bodies. We are called to share the gifts of ministry with one another, and to be channels of God's love in the world by involving ourselves with all others.

As apostles, we commit ourselves to build community by discovering our wants and needs and those of others through calling members to share their gifts freely and to grow; by nurturing in faith and tradition; by celebrating renewed life together in worship and fellowship.

We commit ourselves to spread the Good News of our life in Jesus Christ, who calls us into oneness.



**Sunday Mass or Holy Eucharist  
10 a.m.**

**Attend in person  
or watch on Facebook Live**

**NO RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED TO ATTEND IN PERSON.**

### Stay Connected

For pastoral care, please call or email your clergy

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



## *Highlights from Vestry Council April 20th*

### Financial Update: March 2021

YTD Income: \$ 79,661.36  
YTD Expense: \$ 57,529.31  
YTD Excess: \$22,132.05

March Income: \$ 50,566.68  
March Expenses: \$22,364.96  
Net Income: \$28,201.72

- ◆ March's Income is skewed because of a \$25,000 legacy gift from Anita Watson's estate. Also, expenses were higher because of the purchase of the new lawn mower.
- ◆ The re-gathering for in-person liturgies is going well, and the Fellowship Hall overflow has been mainly used for those arriving after the liturgy begins. Because the number of attendees in the Fellowship Hall is small, they have been directed to receive Communion in the sanctuary.
- ◆ Slips of paper which states "this seat is occupied" are given to in-person attendees as they enter the sanctuary. This will ensure if the person leaves their seat before the service begins to talk to someone, their seat will not be given away to someone else and the slips of paper marks which seats need to be disinfected following the service. Reserved seating can be arranged for those needing special accommodations.
- ◆ Fr. Mario plans to return on Tuesday, May 4th with his first service on Sunday, May 9th.
- ◆ VIRTUS and Safe Church training are both given virtually. Vestry Council members are required to have this training. Please contact Dianne if you need assistance signing up.
- ◆ The office's heat pump (installed in 1997) needs to be replaced before summer. Bids for its replacement are now being requested.
- ◆ Community Building is a project by the VB School System to provide free meals to needy school age children who are currently attending school virtually at home. There are a number of these children at the Twin Canal's housing. Holy Apostles has been asked if they could assist with the distribution of meals to the Twin Canal housing once a week. Holy Apostles has accepted this invitation and will begin distributing meals on Tuesdays, noon to 1 pm, beginning May 4th (the program concludes at the end of the school year in mid-June). If you would like to volunteer, contact Whitney McDaniel.
- ◆ The Girl Scouts will begin to work on their outside garden.
- ◆ Holy Apostles will submit a grant request to the Richmond Diocese for assistance in funding the installation of handicap accessible front doors.
- ◆ The Administration Committee is looking to enhance the wall behind the altar/ambo area. This was looked at several years ago. With live streaming of services, members believe something more aesthetically pleasing than a cinderblock wall would improve the impression viewers see of our church. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- ◆ The Administration Committee is also investigating power washing the outside walls of the church and some limited repairs to the parking lot. It is anticipated a major capital improvement outlay will need to be made in the next couple of years to resurface the entire parking lot.
- ◆ The Saturday morning Men's Group has been disbanded due to lack of interest and participation.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS



Julian Kremer	2	Mary Ward	17
Anna Crosby	3	Peter Koch	18
Anthony Asalone	5	C. Stanley	18
C. Dao	8	Kevin Meek	23
Carolyn Ferguson	10	Tevin Clark	25
Mary Thomas	10	Brittney Hormuth	25
Teresa Meadows	11	Robert Smith	25
Teresa Stanley	11	Tim Mitchell	26
Steve Stanley	14	Michael Meehan	29
Michael Stover	15	Barbara Van Heest	29

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*

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Frey  
May 14, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Romero  
May 27, 1972

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Russo  
May 16, 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.**



**Your mental health is as important as your physical health!**

## **May is Mental Health Awareness Month**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we will install a mural and benches in the ViBe's community butterfly garden on Mediterranean Avenue between 18th and 19th streets. This is part of the **Seeds of Hope Mental Health and Wellness Art Project** - a collaboration that includes: The Season for Non-Violence\* Collective; NAMI Coastal Virginia and the ViBe Art District. The members of the collective are focusing on mental health due to the increased stress, anxiety and depression experience by our youth. The students in the collective are attending virtual presentations of NAMI's Ending the Silence and Say It Out Loud as well as using their social media to encourage the friends and class mates to attend.

Each year the collective includes an art project. Artists Amanda and Ericka Hitchcock envisioned a three-dimensional mural that includes containers with seeds available to the public to plant and the following quote by Alfred Lord Tennyson - "If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk through my garden forever." The mural and benches with planters will be incorporated into the active community butterfly and flower garden on [Mediterranean Avenue between 18th and 19th streets](#). Kindness stones with mental health and wellness messages will be placed in the garden as well as throughout the ViBe district.

Here are a few ways to support Mental Health Awareness Month and this project:

Wear a green ribbon for mental health awareness month. If we are meeting together in May we will distribute them on the first Sunday in May. Change your front porch light to green.

Paint kindness rocks with mental health messages at Zero's at the Oceanfront on 632 Virginia Beach Boulevard and encourage friends and family to do this with you. You can also do it on your own and spread the rocks in your community.

Adopt one of the planters and care for it.

Donate: To defray the costs incurred in crating and assembling this project.

For information, Kay Ashby 757-285-8362 or [contact@namicoastalvirginia.org](mailto:contact@namicoastalvirginia.org). Donations can be made to NAMI Coastal Virginia to Seeds of Hope project -on [www.namicoastalvirginia.org](http://www.namicoastalvirginia.org) or mailed to 291 Independence Blvd, Suite 542, Virginia Beach, Va. 233462

Thank you,  
Kay Ashby, NAMI Coastal Virginia





## 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

### Committee Liaisons

Administration: Andrea Whyte (E) and Mike Cherwa (RC)

Christian Formation: Charlie Mills (E) and Kay Ashby (RC)

Fellowship: Kim Nichter (E) and Jackie Lucas (RC)

Liturgy: Matthew Wood (RC) and Carolyn Ferguson (E)

Social Ministry: Joann Mancuso (RC) and Whitney McDaniel (E)

"IF I HAD A FLOWER FOR EVERY TIME I THOUGHT OF YOU,  
I COULD WALK THROUGH MY GARDEN FOREVER."



### We're taking a break in May

During the month of May, we will take a break from our weekly virtual offerings;

**Saturday Virtual Coffee Hour**

**Sunday Evening Prayer**

**Wednesday Adult Formation**

This will give us an opportunity to evaluate and adjust these virtual programs.

### Mark your Calendars

May 6 - National Day of Prayer

**May 9 - Mother's Day**

May 18 - ARChive Deadline

**May 23 - Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!**

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

**May 31 - Memorial Day - Office Closed**





## *Ecumenism*

### **A look at our Ecumenism Goals and how we plan to achieve them:**

#### **Ecumenism Goal:**

To educate current and future members of the Church of the Holy Apostles community about ecumenism, to increase understanding of why ecumenism holds special significance for our community; and to become a more visible ecumenical partner in the community.

**Objective 1:** Ensure that each member of the community is provided access to ready, updated resources, when needed and as available, to increase their knowledge and understanding of ecumenism.

**Responsible Party:** Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy and clergy

#### **Action Items:**

- ◆ Update church library with books (\*organize books according to topics) and other resources related to ecumenism
- ◆ Provide monthly news, comments, articles including regular updates from ecumenical officers of both dioceses in the ARChive newsletter devoted exclusively to ecumenism
- ◆ Incorporate ecumenism as an ongoing part of the Christian Formation Program
- ◆ Plan ecumenical activities such as luncheons, talks with guest speakers, etc. and invite other churches to participate bi-annually
- ◆ Request clergy sermons focus on ecumenism every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year

**Objective 2:** Increase visibility of Church of the Holy Apostles as an ecumenical/interfaith community through active representation and participation at ecumenical activities as sponsors/co-sponsors/active participants.

**Responsible Party:** Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, Social Ministry and clergy

#### **Action Items:**

- ◆ Make known to the congregation when ecumenical activities are occurring and encourage members to attend
- ◆ Encourage members to “think outside the box” and to come up with quarterly ecumenical activities
- ◆ Identify and provide presentations on ecumenical activities such as LARCUM, Week of Christian Unity, etc., to increase interest, no less than two weeks prior to the event
- ◆ Plan ecumenical activities such as luncheons, talks with guest speakers, etc. and invite other churches to participate bi-annually
- ◆ Encourage newer members to become involved through mentorship from members who have participated in these events
- ◆ Include publication of events using social media (YouTube, Website, Facebook)
- ◆ Support diocesan ecumenical initiatives by sending representatives to be in attendance and to participate, if requested.

**If you want to help , volunteer, 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*

### **Hats Sales Support the Discretionary Fund**

Holy Apostles ball caps are on sale for only \$25.

Contact Jim Byrd [bjbyrd1@verizon.net](mailto:bjbyrd1@verizon.net) 757-467-5150



### **Manna Pantry May 10-14**

Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Financial donations are used to purchase fresh foods such as meat, cheese, butter, and Food Lion gift cards. **We are currently fully stocked for non perishable items.**

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

### **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.**



### **Volunteers Needed Tuesdays 12 Noon - 1 pm May 4 - June 15**

Volunteers are needed to pick up 37 bags of food and milk from Green Run High School at 12 pm on Tuesdays and take them to the Twin Canal Community Center. The kids and/or parents will come pick up food between 12:30 and 1 pm. Each bag has breakfast, lunch, and dinner for each student for 4 days, plus milk and juice. This is an absolute miracle for many of those families!

Contact Whitney McDaniel for more information: [whitmcd@hotmail.com](mailto:whitmcd@hotmail.com)

### **Membership and Outreach Goal:**

Continue to communicate Holy Apostles' mission, support our church members, and reach out to military and various groups to expand our Holy Apostles' community.

**Objective 1:** Ensure external communication outlets such as the website, Facebook, and YouTube receive content updates on a regular basis.

Responsible parties: Administration - Communications; Christian Unity

**Objective 2:** Reach out to HA members during the pandemic by calling, emailing, and/or sending cards and letters on a regular basis.

Responsible parties: Fellowship; Social Ministry; Vestry Council; Clergy

**Objective 3:** Reach out to local military and other local communities through focused advertising and by increasing participation in community events.

Responsible parties: Vestry Council, Administration – Communications; Social Ministry