

ARChive

APRIL 2021

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Church of the Holy Apostles
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www.richmonddiocese.org
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**Deadline for submission is the
3rd Tuesday of the month.**



A Message from Deacon Gary

Dear Holy Apostles Friends,

What a difference a month makes. When writing my message for the ARChive at the end of February, we were having one of the wettest Februarys on record, COVID cases were running high in Hampton Roads, and in person liturgies were not allowed. Here it is the third week of March and we are enjoying warm, sunny, spring weather. Statewide, the COVID positivity rate is below 8%, (the threshold Bishop Susan set for re-gathering). As a result, on Sunday, March 21st we re-gathered in person for the first time in four months - just in time for Holy Week and Easter! Another positive occurrence is that our revised seating plan (almost doubling our allowable seating from 48 to 77) has been approved by both dioceses, so we don't require reservations to attend church in person.

We continue to keep Father Mario and Catherine in our prayers during Father Mario's short-term disability. We miss his presence, enthusiasm and messages. A blessing has been the return of Father Alan Mead. Father Alan knows our community well as a result of his two and half years serving as our interim Episcopal priest before our call to Father Mario.

I want to thank Fr. Daniel, our Interim Roman Catholic Chaplain, Whitney McDaniel, our Warden, Mike Meehan our Treasurer, and everyone who is assisting Dianne and me with the administration of the church. Also thank you to Tony Asalone, Kelly Hormuth, and Barbara Kimpan for continuing our Sunday Evening Prayer on Facebook live. Although we would all prefer a permanent clergy team, the cohesiveness of our staff, lay leadership, and members makes carrying on during these difficult, interim times much easier. Thank you!!

Bishop Haynes has appointed a new Episcopal Ecumenical Officer. Father Thomas Haynes, rector of Christ the King Church in Tabb will serve in that capacity and happens to be Bishop Haynes' husband. I see that as good news for Holy Apostles and the news has been shared with Msgr. Joe Lehman, the Richmond Diocese's Ecumenical Officer.

For those who thought I would say more about Easter (since it falls on April 4th), I apologize. An Easter letter has been mailed to you that sums up how Easter demonstrates God's power over all things, even death itself. And that power of life after death is a promise received by all followers of Jesus. This promise gives every Christian hope for the future and reassurance that Jesus walks with us through our trials and tribulations, we don't walk our path alone. God/Jesus has unconditional love for us and asks so little in return - simply to love Him and love/forgive others.

Please join us for our Holy Week and Easter services.

Happy April/Happy Spring,

Deacon Gary

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



Liturgy Volunteers

April	4th - Easter	11th	18th	25th
LECTOR	G Leighton	J Tucker	L Startt	D Dickerson
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Deacon Gary	B Startt	Deacon Gary	A Cherwa
READERS FOR EVENING PRAYER	No Evening Prayer	L Carpenter & B Kimpan	P Russo & J Tucker	L Start & B Startt
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter	Nichter & Lowe	Startt	S Delaney
COUNTERS	L Startt & M Meehan	K Nichter & S Stanley	L Pace & L Startt	M Cherwa & M Mills

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

HOLY WEEK	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Vigil	Easter Day
LECTOR / READER	N Nichter	J Blessing	N Ragland & J Lucas	G Leighton
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Deacon Gary	No Eucharist	N Ragland	Deacon Gary

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 1: 7 pm Mass

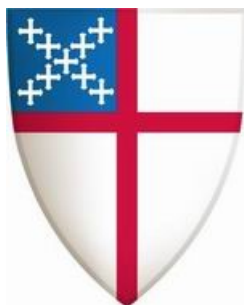
Good Friday, April 2: 12 Noon Ecumenical Prayer Service

Easter Vigil, April 3: 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

Easter Day, April 4: 10 am Mass

Virtual Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 2

The Episcopal Diocesan Liturgists are producing a virtual Good Friday service, which will walk the Stations of the Cross. It will feature different parishes from across our diverse diocese. The video will be available on the diocesan YouTube channel by 8 a.m. on Good Friday, April 2.



Attend in person or watch our Livestream Mass or Holy Eucharist

NO RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED TO ATTEND IN PERSON.

Watch our Livestream Evening Prayer Sundays at 5 pm

on our Facebook page



Highlights from Vestry Council March 2nd & 16th, 2021

Financial Update: 16 February 2021

YTD Income: \$ 29,121.62
YTD Expense: \$ 35,173.43
YTD Excess: (\$6,051.81)

February Income: \$ 14,860.12
February Expenses: \$19,700.65
Net Income: (\$4,840.53)

- ◆ February had higher than normal expenses.
- ⇒ Our electrical bill was higher because a heat pump for the office area was often running on auxiliary heat. The situation has been rectified, but the heat pump (installed in 1997) will need to be replaced before the summer.
- ⇒ Costs for suspending the camera for livestreaming services was paid during the month.
- ⇒ Funds earmarked for Latino Relief were paid in February.
- ◆ Vestry Council approved the regathering for in-person liturgies on Sunday, March 21st (Episcopal Diocese approved churches to regather when ready after March 13th).
- ◆ Seating capacity in the sanctuary has been increased to 58 as a result of adding another row of chairs and the relocation of the audio-visual table.
- ⇒ The Fellowship Hall will serve as an overflow space with a capacity of 19.
- ⇒ No reservations are required.
- ◆ Fr. Alan Mead will serve as our Interim Episcopal priest during Fr. Mario's absent.
- ◆ Organizationally, the Vestry Council decided to keep Christian Unity as a Council not a committee.
- ◆ The purchase of a new lawnmower was approved.
- ◆ Looking for volunteers to expand our IT abilities (are you interested in learning more in this area?). Hope to expand out to YouTube and beyond.
- ◆ Annual Retreat Goals for 2020/21 have been published.
- ◆ For now, the old playground area will remain fenced and mulched. A picnic table will be added.
- ◆ Members of the Vestry Council committed to watching a "Ted Talk" video on YouTube, by Simon Sinek, entitled "The Golden Circle".
- ⇒ It's a leadership video addressing the importance of identifying why an organization exists and why others would want to join you.
- ⇒ Other members of the Holy Apostles community are encouraged to view it too.

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Grace Leighton	4	Brown Carpenter	16
Jeremy Cunningham	5	Pete Van Heest	20
Kay Ashby	6	Julia Hatcher	21
John Delaney	7	Julia OGrady	22
Alice Hale	7	Terry Salisbury	24
Ernesto Perez	8	Kat McDonald	26
Fr. René Castillo	10	Madison Stanley	26
Amanda Stanley	10	JoAnne Zamer	28
Sue Delaney	14	Jay Stanley	29
Stephen Vandenhoff	14		

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*



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Van Heest
April 13, 1960

Mr. and Mrs. Brown Carpenter
April 19, 1980

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Mitchell
April 16, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ashby
April 28, 1974

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 or all infected or in quarantine because of 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.



Five Episcopal Diocesan Initiatives for 2021

(as presented during the Annual Diocesan Meeting, February 27, 2021)

Initiative #1

Rule of Life

Christian who follow Christ within the Diocese of Southern Virginia engage in a **Rule of Life** that includes commitment to Prayer, Study of Scripture, Acts of Charity, Community and Worship Life.

Initiative #2

Connection

Every faith community has a unique charism to offer. The Diocese commits to empowering and supporting all communities, large and small, to maintain and model healthy parish life. We will devote energy and resources to healthy congregational development, conflict resolution, and healthy relationships. The goal of this initiative is to establish healthy, supportive CONNECTION throughout the Diocese.

Initiative #3

Becoming Beloved Community

The Diocese will commit to engaging the journey to **Becoming Beloved Community**, improving our understanding of what it means to live “radically just lives,” and endeavoring to be agents of truth telling, healing, justice and racial reconciliation.

Initiative #4

Creation Care

The Diocese will commit to developing and maintaining a model of **Creation Care** that articulates and implements an action plan for advancing our stewardship, not only of Diocesan resources, but of the earth and all its resources.

Initiative #5

Evangelism

The Diocese will commit to develop and promote a model of **Evangelism** that enables us to proclaim by word and example the Good News of Jesus Christ, empowering us to tell our faith stories with the kind of ease and conviction that will attract people to our way.



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.



Episcopal Council Week

The following formation opportunities were presented on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 during Episcopal Council Week. The 3 programs are available for use in our community. Information was obtained from each programs' website and then summarized.

Sacred Ground: Jane Kiefer and Genevieve Nelson, Speakers

The *Sacred Ground* Program is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates a space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. The program focuses on addressing and working toward Racial Justice and Reconciliation. Small groups of participants meet for 10 weeks to look back in history through films, videos, books, and each other. The objective is to gather groups of white people to open a dialogue about racial identity and racism. The program then adds interracial groups to continue dialogue on racial healing and justice. The *Sacred Ground* Program is free for Episcopal churches.

*Important side note: The Parochial Report has a section on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. We answered 'NO' to the statement: Our congregation is actively addressing and working toward racial justice and reconciliation.

Bible Project: Patti Glawitsky, Speaker

The *Bible Project* is a group of animated videos to help people of all ages experience the Bible as a unified story that leads us to Jesus. Videos include topics such as 'How to Read the Bible', and various themes, word studies, and book overviews. The *Bible Project* videos are excellent topics for church bible study discussions and are free to the public.

Embracing Evangelism: Lynn Farlin, Speaker

Embracing Evangelism is a course to explore our call to seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people. The series consists of six video sessions, each under 45 minutes, focusing on the teachings of Episcopal evangelism, group discussions, and exercises to help Episcopalians understand the ministry and call to evangelism. The curriculum was produced by the Episcopal Church and is free to the public.



Stay Tuned for the April Schedule

◇ Saturday Virtual Coffee Hour

No Virtual Coffee Hour on Saturday, April 3

◇ Sunday Evening Prayer

No Evening Prayer on Sunday, April 4

◇ Wednesday Adult Formation

No Adult Formation on Wednesday, April 7



ANNUAL GOALS FOR 2020/21

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: Retired librarians (Jean Koch and Mary Thomas); Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, and clergy

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

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

Ecumenism

Daily Word from Jean Koch

'It could be argued (it sometimes is) in an ideal or merely theoretical way that baptism and first communion are inextricably linked as elements of Christian initiation; and hence the parents ought first to decide about the child's first communion and then determine the baptism accordingly. But interchurch life isn't like that. It is a whole series of decisions which come out of the developing relationship of man and wife. These decisions cannot be known in advance or planned from the outset by some blueprint which would not allow marriage to be marriage or leave these two people to develop in interaction with each other.' from "The Question of Baptism" by Fr John Coventry SJ

Source: interchurchfamilies.org

Daily Word from Jean Koch

'We wish to express our encouragement and admiration of those couples living in a mixed marriage who, in full loyalty to their faith and conscientious convictions, work together to create a truly Christian home and, in the joint living of their vocation as Christian parents, seek to share with their children the authentic riches of their respective Christian traditions'. "From an Irish Perspective", Irish Episcopal Conference

Source: interchurchfamilies.org



Membership / Outreach

Saturday Morning Men's Group



Can you help with Spring projects?

Paint the Chapel and Sacristy, Paint exterior doors and metal plates,
Caulk exterior vents, Repair plate on light pole, trim trees around light pole,
Wrap exterior HVAC lines, Remove rotted wood around building.

Join us Saturdays anytime between 8 am and 11 am.

For more information, please contact either Brent or Jim.

Brent McDaniel: brent@beachautooutfitters.com; 757-375-2170

Jim Byrd: bjbyrd1@verizon.net; 757-467-5150

Hats Sales Support the Discretionary Fund

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

Contact Jim Byrd

bjbyrd1@verizon.net

757-467-5150



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



Manna Pantry April 8th - 12th

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.