

ARChive

JANUARY 2021

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Church of the Holy Apostles
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www.holyapostlesvb.org



Catholic Diocese of Richmond
www.richmonddiocese.org
Episcopal Diocese of So. Virginia
www.diosiva.org

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

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

*Happy New Year and welcome
to our new Holy Apostles'*

ARChive newsletter.

*We hope you enjoy this new format
and we look forward to your
feedback.*

A Message from Fr. Mario

Dear Friends in Christ,

As part of worshiping during this pandemic, Holy Apostles has offered prayer services via our podcast channel. We started offering Morning Prayer, and later we moved to Evening Prayer. Compline has been our latest offering. In ancient Christian tradition, Compline (Night Prayer) was said after all work was done and before going to bed. It starts with the following words: The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. In a few words, these opening words state the purpose of Compline; the 'perfect end' speaks to the completion of the day by the grace of God. This prayer also asks for a peaceful night and can be interpreted as: "If I die while I sleep, I hope I die in a state of salvation" and "I hope I make it to tomorrow."

As we celebrate the birth of the holy child, it is possible that something similar was in Joseph and Mary's hearts and minds during all those nights of travel to Bethlehem. They would later face more difficult nights (this time with a baby) fleeing the reach of Herod's soldiers. However, Scripture tells us that one day they would finally stop running. We need to remember this fact because one day, we will also be able to cease running from COVID-19. The new vaccines will help us as long as we continue to wear our masks and take responsibility for each other's health. And yes, in the year 2022 and beyond, we may have to get a vaccine booster. However, many of us understand that if that will allow us to live a fuller life, it will be a small price.

In the meantime, we can also give a booster to our lives by listening to God; this critical task will be easier if we stop, reflect, stay for a moment in the light that allows us to see ourselves honestly see the world differently. We don't need to be inside our sanctuary to sing 'O come, let us adore him' and embrace the beauty of that adoration, that wondering gaze at the holy child in the manger right from our homes. We can continue to grow in faith that, as Martin Luther King Jr. said in his final Christmas sermon, we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and goodwill toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2021.

Fr. Mario

We Chose love over division, unity over separation and Christ above all



LITURGY VOLUNTEERS

Jan	3	10	17	24	31
LECTOR FOR LIVESTREAM	M Meehan	D Dickerson	E Dickerson	A Cherwa	J Flowers
READERS FOR PODCAST	J D Mitchell & T Frey	G Little & P Salisbury	B Byrd & C Mills	B Kimpan & P Van Heest	K Ashby & J Tucker
ALTAR GUILD	Startt	S Delaney & Lowe	Frey	Nichter	Startt
COUNTERS	M Cherwa & M Mills	L Startt & M Lucas	P Russo & S Stanley	L Pace & M Rucker	G Leighton & 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.

Stay Connected

For pastoral care, please call or email your clergy

Fr. Mario: 706-631-6299 - mpmelend@bu.edu
Fr. Boat: 757-759-1345 - Frankboat13@gmail.com
Deacon Gary: 757-735-2227 - garyharmeyer@gmail.com

Mass or Holy Eucharist; Sundays; 10 am
Live streamed on our Facebook page

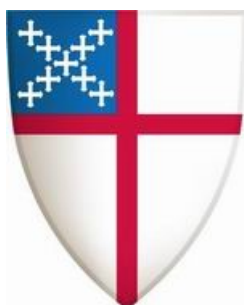
Podcast

Listen or Download

anchor.fm/holyapostles

<https://podcasts.apple.com/.../church-of-the-ho.../id1505354042...>

Just ask Alexa or your Google Assistant to "Play Church of the Holy Apostles Podcast"



Virtual Coffee Hour

Join us every Saturday at 2:00 PM

Join via Phone: (312) 626-6799

If you are asked for the "Meeting ID" it is: 816 0683 8172

Join via Video--Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81606838172>

If you need the "Meeting ID": 816 0683 8172



Highlights from Vestry Council

December 3rd Special Meeting

Vestry Council held a special meeting via Zoom on December 3 to review a proposal for a new audio-visual system for the sanctuary. An anonymous donation was received for this system. The proposal was approved. Installation will be scheduled for this month.

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)

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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Amy Stanley	1	D Perez	10
Barbara Byrd	7	Colin Hamilton	15
Charlie Dawson	7	Brittney McDaniel	17
M Hatcher	10	Bonnie Startt	26
Colette Lo	10	Steven Hale	28
Anne Martin	10	Ann Delaney	31

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*

Pray for the sick

for inpatient children at CHKD,

For 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

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

Abuse and Neglect during COVID

With the COVID-19 crisis, we all must take an active role in monitoring child safety in their homes, neighborhoods and their communities. Inevitably, there will be children and young people, in the months to come, making disclosures of abuse, to trusted adults, once they feel safe, and when schools are back in session and churches are open. It's possible that the child may make the disclosure to you over your online communication, or that you may pick up on disturbing behavior or warning signs through that online communication. What you see, hear or observe may cause you to suspect one of the types of child abuse—physical abuse, neglect, emotional/psychological abuse or sexual abuse. If you need help or support:

Call the National Parent Helpline at 1-855-427-2736

- Call the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD or 800-422-4453
- Call Child Protective Service at 1-800-552-7096
- For suspicion, fear or concern of immediate abuse, please call 911
- To report suspected online sexual exploitation, contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-843-5678 or online at www.cybertipline.org

Adults and the Elderly may also be at increased risk for abuse and neglect.

- To report suspected elder abuse call 1-888-832-3858



The Church Geek Corner

By Fr. Mario

In the year 2021, you may see me wearing a funny hat from time to time. I am talking about the *biretta*:



The *biretta* is the traditional liturgical hat for Western priests; it is worn at specific points during Low Mass (the equivalent of the Episcopal Holy Eucharist), including, for example, the processional and recessional. Some priests choose to wear it when preaching or giving absolution. A priest can also wear it outdoors for non-liturgical functions. Liturgical hats (along with other vestments) have a biblical precedent (Exodus 28), and the biretta is connected to the academic garb of the late middle-ages. You know the mortarboard caps and academic tams one sees at graduation ceremonies? Those hats are descendants of the same medieval cap. The most common *biretta* is stiff or collapsible, with three peaks and a pom, known as a Latin style biretta. According to the person's holy orders, priests and deacons wear black, and bishops wear purple. The Anglican Communion has canons and archdeacons, so they would wear black with trim or poms in red and purple, respectively. A priest can also wear a hat known as a *zucchetto*, but that's a story for another day.

These days you don't see many priests wearing them, and you can ask me: does it look silly? Ha ha, yes, it does. However, in particular visitors, I want people to ask why the priest is wearing it, as in, "Hey, what's that thing on your priest's head?" You can tell them it is a reminder of St. Paul's directions in regards to the need to study the Scriptures and the way we use words: *Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.* (2 Timothy 14-15).



Ecumenism

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18-25, 2021

The theme for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity is :

“Abide in My Love.... You Shall Bear Much Fruit” (John 15:1-17)

This year it will be quite different from previous years. We will be hosting Prayer Groups over Zoom conferences and the Greymore Friars will provide guidance. www.geii.org

Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute is a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, a Roman Catholic religious community of brothers and priests in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi and the founder of the Society of the Atonement, Father Paul Wattson, SA. Paul Wattson was an early pioneer of the ecumenical movement in the United States. From his friary at Graymoor, in Garrison, NY, he contributed to the founding of what is now the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and identified the primary work of the Friars of the Atonement to be that of Christian unity and promote Christian unity and interreligious dialogue in North America.



LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican/Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, United Methodist)

Reflection of the 2020 Virginia State LARCUM Conference

The Annual LARCUM Conference was held via Zoom on, Friday evening, December 4, and Saturday morning, December 5. Our speaker was Dr. Phillip Cary, internationally acclaimed expert on Augustine, scholar in-residence at the Templeton Honors College, professor of Philosophy at Eastern University and Editor-in-Chief of *Pro Ecclesia* will present **“Being Formed by the Gospel in a Post-Christian Age: A proposal for the Church Catholic.”**

He gave a unique insight into Augustine and Martin Luther’s beliefs and how they interpreted the Gospel and how it might affect the church to hear the proposal today. In the 16th Century they had a very vivid fear of hell and that created much anxiety that would control your whole way of life. As an example Luther was destined to marry well and enter the law, but during a great storm he was so scared that he prayed to Saint Anne to spare his life and in return he would become a monk.



Membership / Outreach

Open Table Ministry at Holy Apostles

In November of 2019, The OpenTable ministry got underway after many weeks of training. The Open Table, a United Methodist national program, trains people from community sectors such as business, education, faith communities, health care, and others to organize and invest in relationships with individuals who may have complex needs related to daily living. Individuals come highly recommended through local Social Services organizations. The individual selected is highly motivated and likely to succeed in a caring environment such as the Open Table. Open Table members assist in helping the person selected to become a better problem solver.

The Holy Apostles Table, under the leadership of Teresa Stanley as Director and Lynne Graham as Inside Director, became mentors and friends to Liz, a mother of five children. Some of you might remember meeting the family who were our guests at our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

We began weekly meetings with Liz and quickly developed a relationship of trust among ourselves and with Liz. We also became victims of the Pandemic shut-down, but we persisted and continued the weekly meetings from March through November via Zoom,

It has been a year of growth for the members of the table and for our Friend, as the mother is called. Liz has made great strides. She has become a more confident parent, a more assertive member in her employment environment, a recent graduate of a community financial program called Bank-On, explored new cooking challenges, and grown more hopeful as she plans for her family's future.

Holy Apostles members have also grown in many ways. We became better listeners, while sharing some wisdom and some laughter. This made it comfortable for our Friend to explore ideas with us.

We will continue the individual relationships with the family, but we will have completed the formal relationship as we end monthly meetings in February, 2021. Once we are able to meet again as a church family, we hope that Liz can visit Holy Apostles and give you an idea of what this experience has meant to her and her family.

Thank you to the members who prayed for The Open Table, who gave other gifts of kindness to the family, and to those who supported the table in other ways.

Your Holy Apostles table members were Teresa Stanley, Lynne Graham, Ann Campion, Norma Ragland, Jackie Lucas, Holly Frey, Elizabeth Dickerson, Whitney Mc Daniel, Annette Cherwa, and Mike Cherwa.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Ragland and Lynne Graham (December, 2020)





Membership / Outreach

Just Faith Ministries—Faith and Racial Healing

Do you want to address racism in your community, but don't know where to begin? Presented through the lens of the Christian faith, JustFaith Ministries' Faith & Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration consists of eight 2 hour sessions, as well as an opening retreat and immersion experience. This program guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States. It narrates the historical context behind the racial inequalities we face today, whether in education, the criminal justice system, the workforce, or even in church life. It invites participants into an honest conversation about the history of racism in the United States. It also guides participants in discerning practical action steps for working for racial justice and healing. (All sessions include prayer, active listening, and relationship-building.)

This Just Faith Program will be on ZOOM starting

Wednesday, January 13 from 6:30-8:3 pm.

For more information or to register,

please contact teresastanleyobx@gmail.com or reneemccarthy44@gmail.com

Manna Pantry January 11 - 15

Your donations of food items or monetary donations are greatly appreciated. **The food items most urgently needed are listed on the "Manna Shopping List".** Financial donations are used to purchase fresh foods such as meat, cheese, and butter.

Make donations to "Manna" through online giving or by check.

Please drop off food donations during office hours. Thank you for supporting the Manna Program and helping our neighbors in need.

MANNA SHOPPING LIST

- ⇒ pasta sauce
- ⇒ canned fruit
- ⇒ canned vegetables
- ⇒ macaroni and cheese
- ⇒ hamburger helper
- ⇒ boxed potatoes
- ⇒ rice
- ⇒ tuna

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.



Membership / Outreach

Update on the Mayom Family

William and Mary Kay Mayom send their Best Wishes and Hope for the New Year. All five children (Deng, Mayom, Yar, Ayen, and Ajok) are staying well. 2020 has been a year to remember for them. They are all smart and are learning from home. I know Deng (the oldest) is a big help with household chores and with schooling his younger siblings. They are members of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Norfolk. William continues to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant at DePaul Hospital in Norfolk; he now works there every other weekend. He had an opportunity to be employed by Naval Shipbuilding in Newport News as an Apprentice Electrician. They are very thankful for their healthy family and are so appreciative of our continued support. William calls me once a month and after he asks about "Uncle Bob Martin," he always asks about Holy Apostles. Mercifully their relatives in Kenya (Refugee Camp) and in South Sudan have stayed healthy during this Pandemic. Please continue to keep this special family and their homeland (South Sudan) in your thoughts.

Saturday Morning Men's Group

Can you help with fall 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 for Sale

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

Contact Jim Byrd

bjbyrd1@verizon.net

757-467-5150





Membership / Outreach

New Year's Day Mass, Friday, January 1 at 10 am (Mary, Mother of God)

Epiphany Mass, Sunday, January 3 at 10 am

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday, January 18 - Office closed

ARChive Deadline, Tuesday, January 19

Vestry Council Zoom meeting, Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 pm

Our Vision

We share a vision to be a visible sign of Christian Unity. We are:

- ◆ Eucharist centered
- ◆ Intent on mission
- ◆ Involved in shared ministry
- ◆ Creative in liturgy
- ◆ Expressive to Christian education and formation
- ◆ Ecumenically optimistic

\$2000 GRANT AWARDED FROM THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

We were awarded a \$2000 grant from the **2021 Fuel & Hunger Fund**. This grant will be used toward our Utility Assistance and Manna Programs.

Many thanks to Nick and Kim Nichter for their work on the grant application.

Your Feedback Please

Your feedback on our new ARChive format is appreciated.

Please email to Julia Hatcher at hatcherjmwr@yahoo.com

or Dianne Marzec at admin@holypostlesvb.org