

Church of the Holy Apostles  
2020 Annual Meeting  
February 2, 2020

## Rector's Report, Part I: 2019 in Review

This year my report is divided into two parts: a review of 2019 and section dealing with our vision moving forward into 2020.

2019 was another great year for Holy Apostles! It marked my second full year as your rector. My family and I continue to be blown away by the generosity, kindness, and camaraderie of this congregation. I am so honored to serve with you here and I love you all very much.

In 2019, we have witnessed two baptisms, a wedding, and three funerals. We have added eight new members this year and have become haven to 4 or 5 others who have needed a place to belong from time to time. From 2018 to 2019 the ASA decreased from 59 to 56. One longtime member has moved away, and others have decreased their level of participation.

Lot's of exciting and wonderful things happened at Holy Apostles in 2019. At the annual meeting we will watch a brief slideshow that illustrates some of the fun we've had in life of worshipping God, serving others, and enjoying each others company. Our committee reports are filled with examples of the ways God is moving among us. In this report, I want to highlight three initiatives from 2019 that illustrate the ways we are responding to God's call to us with energy and faithfulness.

### **Holy Apostles Choir School**

The Holy Apostles Choir School began in the Fall with two students. We now have five. We've learned that its tough work building a program like this from scratch, but it's worth it. The vision of this program is to introduce children from within our congregation and from the wider community to the riches and joys of singing and the sacred music tradition. Arreon Harley-Emerson is an excellent teacher, an enthusiastic director, and a joyful presence. He has gone above and beyond to find ways to be of assistance to the church and our worship to God, and joins us in worship whenever he can.

### **St. Faith Preacher's Series**

2019 also saw the launch of the St. Faith Preacher's Series. This goal of this program is to enrich our congregational life with diverse voices from the pulpit, and to lift up and encourage women preachers in the Episcopal church. This Fall and Winter we were blessed to hear excellent sermons from the Rev. Dr. Katherine Grieb and the Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey as part of this series. The series returns in the Spring with a seminarian sermon from Virginia Theological Seminary. The seminary has generously funded this program.

### **Partnership with HAM**

In 2018 we were invited to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Holy Apostles and the Mediator. That event led to the beginning of a unique relationship with the church that founded us as their Mission in 1950 and sustained us for the first 18 years of our existence in Penn Wynne. Throughout 2019 we have been faithfully praying for each other. Our relationship was deepened by two special shared services. The October 2019 service which combined our two congregations was attended by 118 people. We look forward to continue to strengthen this relationship in 2020 and beyond.