



Appleton Episcopal Ministries

Celebrating the Dignity of All God's People

Appleton's mission is *Sharing God's love by partnering as parishes in the Middle Georgia Convocation to promote the health, education, safety and well-being of children and families.* As a ministry of the Diocese of Atlanta, we approach community ministry in a unique manner by coordinating the efforts of all of the parishes in middle Georgia to identify and coordinate resources and create cooperative networks throughout the convocation. Those parishes include: All Angels, Eatonton; St. Stephen's, Milledgeville; Christ Church, Macon; St. Paul, Macon; St. Francis, Macon; All Saints, Warner Robins; St. Christopher, Perry; St. Andrew's, Fort Valley; St. Luke's, Fort Valley; and St. Mary's, Montezuma. In recognition of these efforts, Appleton has been designated as a Mission Enterprise Zone by The Episcopal Church.

Appleton funds program across the Middle Georgia Convocation that serve children and families in need. Through a grant to All Angels in Eatonton, we support 60 elementary students in a **weekend backpack program**. Over the past five years, we helped to establish three of the four **Path to Shine after-school programs** in our convocation and now actively support programs administered by St. Paul's, St. Francis/Christ Church, and St. Christopher's. **Appleton's 15-passenger van** provides



weekly transportation for both of Macon's Path to Shine programs as well as event transportation for campus ministries in Macon and Milledgeville and EYC groups in Macon. We help to underwrite **special initiatives for children** at Crisis Line/Safe House and have provided funding to St. Paul's for a **diaper ministry** through Loaves and Fishes. Appleton provides funding to both the **All Saints Food Pantry** in Warner Robins and the **Chard Wray Food Pantry** in Milledgeville. Funding to St. Francis helps to support arts enrichment programming for K-12 students at The Georgia Industrial

Home and ceramics programming for Free To Read summer students. We have gifted two computers and surplus farm food to the **Weekend Lunch** program at Christ Church. We gave start-up funding and continue to provide annual support for the **Episcopal Campus Ministry** at Georgia College and State University. We partnered with St. Andrew's in Fort Valley to construct nine **Little Free Libraries** throughout Peach County to help increase literacy and we provided support for a **Canterbury Club** with St. Luke's for students at Fort Valley State University as well as an **afternoon tutoring program** for elementary and middle school students.



During the pandemic, we partnered with the Bibb County School District to distribute free breakfast and lunch meals to neighborhood families, and we provided emergency funding for diapers and bottled water to families in Eatonton and Putnam County.

This past summer, we presented an on-site version of our Appleton Free To Read program for 1st-4th graders at Ingram-Pye, John Lewis, and Southfield Elementary Schools. We reduced the program capacity to 25 students to accommodate social distancing and other precautions while providing our children a safe place for creative learning, positive mentoring, and restored resiliency. Our program has a proven track record: testing of Appleton's 2019 participants confirmed that **95.0% of our children did not suffer summer learning slide and either maintained or exceeded their pre-program instructional reading levels, many by an average of 9 months or more.** Each

child received personal art and creative writing kits, nutritious meals and snacks each day, and a total of 27 books for their personal libraries.

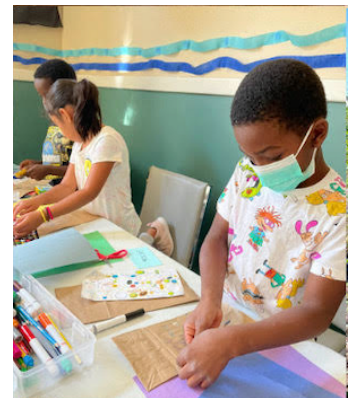
Our summer literacy program is the single most expensive program that Appleton produces or helps to sponsor annually. This year, we received a leadership gift from the Ranny Moulton Family as well as



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substantial support from the Griffith Family Foundation and the Powers Family Foundation. Additional support was received from Christ Church Community Services Fund, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Outreach Fund, Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, Daughters of the King Chapters, Grace Circle of Mulberry Methodist Church, the USDA Summer Food Service Program, Christ Church Weekend Lunch Program, and many individual donors, as well as the use of facilities at

St. Paul's Episcopal Church and its Canterbury House for staging, food storage, program administration, and non-resident staff housing.



Appleton Episcopal Ministries receives no funds through the Diocesan budget, so we depend on private donations to help make possible all of Appleton's work. With generous support, Appleton is able to leverage financial resources, in-kind contributions, and volunteer efforts to support a wide variety of community ministries to God's people. We accomplish all of this under the leadership of one half-time Missioner, a part-time summer staff, and nine dedicated parish representatives who form the Board of Governors.

During this pandemic, we lost two former directors of Appleton Ministries when it was a residential program: Dona Nicholas Glazier Cox and Joseph George Bouzek. We recognize their faithful service and good work on behalf of Appleton.

We continue to recognize the faithful service of the Appleton deaconesses of the Order of St. Katharine who administered the Appleton Church Home for so many decades. They were named the first saints of the Diocese of Atlanta in 2017. As Missioner, I was honored in 2020-21 to be invited to be one of five members of the Deaconess Calendar Day Workgroup of the LFF (Lesser Feasts and Fasts) Subcommittee of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) who were charged with developing a resolution for General Convention to recognize the work of all of the deaconesses of The Episcopal Church. I am proud to share that the biographies of several Appleton deaconesses were included in that work. This resolution is now part of the Blue Book and will be addressed by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music at the General Convention in Baltimore this coming summer.

2021 was Appleton's 151st year of service to children and families in need. As we go forward together, we have confidence that God will continue to bless us and powerfully use us as his hands and feet here on Earth. With your help and with God's grace and generosity, we look forward to another year of rich and productive service. Thanks be to God!

To get more information about Appleton or to volunteer with one of its programs, please contact Missioner Julie Groce at missioner@appletonepiscopal.or or call at 478-731-5901. If you prefer to donate online using a credit card, you may visit [episcopalatlanta.org/make a donation](https://episcopalatlanta.org/make-a-donation) and select Appleton Episcopal Ministries. Should you desire to make a stock transfer as a contribution, please contact Missioner Julie Groce.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Groce, Missioner
Appleton Episcopal Ministries
753 College Street
Macon, Georgia 31201