



Appleton Episcopal Ministries

Celebrating the Dignity of All God's People

2022 Annual Report

Nov 2021 - Oct 2022

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.* 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.



Programs currently funded or administered by Appleton include two Path To Shine programs in Macon; a backpack food program in Eatonton; and inclusive Episcopal Campus Ministry programs in Macon and Milledgeville. We donated 375 books to Book 'Em for community distribution to children. Appleton's van provides weekly transportation for both Path to Shine programs as well as event transportation for campus ministries and EYC groups. We support food pantries in Warner Robins, Milledgeville, and Fort Valley, as well as the St. Francis Arts Enrichment Program.

This past summer, we returned to on-site presentation of our Appleton Free To Read program for 1st-3rd graders at Ingram-Pye, John Lewis, and Southfield Elementary Schools. We served 40 students at St. Paul's Church, providing our children a safe place for creative learning, positive mentoring, and restored resiliency at no charge to families. This year, we added a part-time counselor to help address pandemic-related trauma and social anxiety and to promote mental health awareness. Our six-week program prevents summer learning slide and enables students to maintain or even exceed their pre-program instructional reading levels. We reinforce reading and math literacy with daily enrichments in art, science, African dance, and gardening. The 2022 theme was *Passport To Adventure*, and our students made literary visits to Montgomery, Harlem, Zanzibar, Iraq, South Africa and Antarctica. They studied fossils and created PVC dinosaurs. We celebrated Juneteenth, we had a spelling bee, and we visited the public library, the splash pad, and Dickey Farms for homemade peach ice cream. Our children received nutritious meals and snacks, and they took home 27 books for their personal libraries. They even created and decorated care packages for unhoused people served by Daybreak.



A PROGRAM OF APPLETON EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES



Decorated care packages for Daybreak



Students with Bookguanadon and Readasaurus Rex

I want to recognize our superior staff: Trey Davis, a Candler seminarian who served as our Program Coordinator; Sarah Grace Mayfield, our Site Coordinator and art teacher; teachers Ty'clyn Gilbert, Caroline Mayfield, Ellie Minette; Niyati Patel, Corley Peth, and Chandra Williams; program assistant Addison Henry; enrichment teachers Philip Groce, Pilar Wilder, and the staff and volunteers at St. Francis Arts Center. Many of our teachers were either college students or recent college graduates hailing from Kennesaw State University, Mercer University, the University of North Georgia, Rollins College, and the University of West Georgia.

Each summer, our teachers and senior staff complete a training in delivering lesson plans, classroom management, positive behavioral reinforcement, trauma sensitivity, and racial reconciliation. This reconciliation training includes an annual pilgrimage to Montgomery and Selma with local faith leaders and visits to the Edmund Pettis Bridge, Browns Chapel AME Church, The Legacy Museum, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Rosa Parks Museum, the Freedom Riders Museum, and other historic sites. This year, we included a stop in Hayneville to remember the martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels.



The 2021 teaching staff met Bryan Stevenson on the streets of Montgomery near the Legacy Museum



Some of the curriculum books enjoyed by our students this summer

To support our Free To Read program, we were blessed with landmark gifts from the Ranny Moulton Family and Chris and Laurie Minette, as well as generous support from the Linda Harriet Lane Fund, the Powers Family Foundation, the Christ Church Community Services Fund, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Outreach Fund, Daughters of the King Chapters, Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, Grace Circle of Mulberry Methodist Church, the USDA Summer Food Service Program, and many individual donors, as well as the use of facilities at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and its Canterbury House for program space and non-resident staff housing.

During 2022, with support from the Moulton Family, Appleton has initiated a food scarcity mitigation program with Ingram-Pye Elementary School. This project includes revitalizing and expanding a community garden site on campus; establishing an environmental sustainability curriculum that includes gardening, recycling, and nutrition; and distributing locally-sourced fresh fruits and vegetables to students and families who live in a food desert even before the garden produces any crops. As we evaluate the success of this pilot program, we will share elements with parishes in other communities in our convocation.

With 2022-23 grant support from the Roanridge Trust, a foundation administered by The Episcopal Church, we are working to revitalize and reenergize aging congregations in the southern part of our convocation through innovation and experimentation, thus stabilizing and expanding much-needed community service ministries provided by our most rural parishes. As part of this project, we are resurrecting an Episcopal Campus Ministry program to serve Fort Valley State University.

To celebrate trial use of the new annual commemoration of Episcopal deaconesses by Episcopal General Convention in Baltimore this summer, Appleton repaired and restored all of the monuments in our historic cemetery plot for Appleton deaconesses, teachers, and Church Home residents. The cross on Sister Margaret's tombstone was reset and secured, excess soil around the children's gravestones was cleared away, and all of the monuments were cleaned to that the inscriptions are easy to read. Text for the official commemoration as approved by General Convention includes biographies of three of Appleton's deaconesses.



The Appleton plot at Rose Hill Cemetery, with Sister Margaret's grave at the center

Appleton Episcopal Ministries receives no funds through the Diocesan budget, so we depend on everyone in the Diocese of Atlanta to help make possible all of Appleton's work. The Annual Diocesan Thanksgiving Offering now directed in Canon 24 has taken place since 1880 and is pivotal to Appleton's ability to operate. We combine this Annual Offering with convocational assessments from the parishes in Middle GA, distributions from the Appleton Endowment, and private donations to help make possible all of Appleton's work. With generous support from many committed donors, 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.

In 2023, Appleton will enter its 153rd year of service to children and families in Middle Georgia. 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!

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Groce, Missioner
Appleton Episcopal Ministries
missioner@appletonepiscopal.org

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