



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Disciple

December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

church and then disciple them to be mature followers of Christ.

A Review of the Church Year

As we conclude our Church year 2019 and look toward our New Church Year Advent 1 2020, this is a good time to reflect on how we have progressed as a Christian Community since our Revive retreat weekend with the Rev. Canon Mark Eldredge. Fr. Eldredge in his recommendations noted,

St. John's Anglican has many strengths to build on. Fr. Jim has helped bring the congregation back to a healthy place where they are ready and willing to go to the next level. They are a friendly church that truly loves and cares for one another. The church's vision statement: "Loving, Proclaiming and Serving Christ so others may know him" is excellent. Rather than working on developing a vision, the church simply needs to live by this one especially emphasizing the second half of the vision doing everything you do "so others may know him." This can be done by being intentional and balanced in all five VITAL aspects of church health taught in the ReVive! Seminar. With the congregation's faith that God can do big things through them and their commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission, there is every reason to believe the church will grow.

- **Vision for Evangelism**- continue to do good work with missional

outreach to Americus but shift to more of a "rifle" approach rather than the "shotgun" approach.

The Church has been intentional in building on its Joint Ministry with Perry Wellness, improving and building on celebration of Law Enforcement on St. Michaels Day, and outreach through an informative Web Page, FaceBook, Newsletter and visitor's intentional follow up. We now have permanent nursery assistance and increased attendance by young families with children.

- **Intentional Worship** – Start doing Sunday worship, "so others may know him" according to your vision statement.

A user friendly service guide is being produced similar to Holy Cross Cathedral.

- **Transformation to Christlikeness** – Develop a process to assimilate new people into membership in the

The Church is being proactive in this effort with welcoming and follow-up committees and intentional baptism and confirmation courses. There could be five confirmations and one baptism in December

- **Authentic Community** – no recommendations here! Keep up the good work!
- **Lay Mobilization** – Include a plan to get new members involved in serving in the church as part of the discipleship process discussed above.

The Parish is being proactive in this effort and raising up one of our new members in his call to the Diaconate in the Anglican Church.

The Wardens and Vestry of St. John's

Diocesan Convention and Synod

by David Snell

It was an honor to attend the Diocesan Convention and Synod on behalf of the congregation. Our delegation included Fr. Jim, Curtis Mears and Jim Barton. It was an inspiring series of events. The theme of the conference was generosity, and both the Archbishop and the plenary speaker, Canon David Roseberry, spoke eloquently on the blessing of being generous, in material things but also in spirit.

The conference featured a number of breakout sessions including a Lay Ministry Roundtable, during which parishes from throughout the diocese shared ideas on growth and outreach. The highlights, though, were the evening worship service on Friday and Morning Prayer on Saturday. The worship service was impressive and inspiring. The procession, with all the clergy in their vestments, was quite the

sight. I was served communion by the Archbishop himself—a singular honor. One of the more powerful aspects of both the worship and prayer services was the singing—it's thrilling when hundreds of voices join together in song.

Father Jim and I snuck away to visit the Ministry Fair after the plenary so we missed the afternoon workshops. I do believe, though, that we got to participate in the most meaningful parts

of the conference. It was a blessing to be there and I thank you all for allowing me to attend.

"The procession, with all the clergy in their vestments, was quite the sight."



TREES OF LIFE

by Reggie Daniel

The time has finally arrived. The trees selected are of high quality and are expected to further add to the beauty of our Church grounds.

On December 15, Rt. Rev. Terrell Glenn and Father Jim will be conducting our Confirmation Service and Dedication Service for these new trees. We ask that you and your entire family please come on this date and be part of these exciting services.

Thank you very much for your prayers and encouragement in this final phase of planting. We could not have done this without your participation.

Next year we will mostly maintain what we have accomplished to date and we're

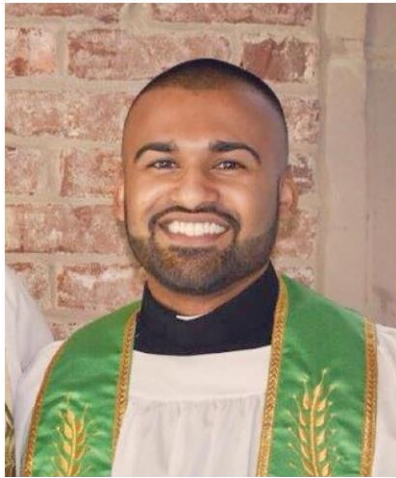
looking forward to this phase of this Ministry.

We have so much to offer at St. Johns, A wonderful and caring priest, a congregation that strives to serve God daily, beautiful sanctuary and grounds. Our outreach to the community, Perry Wellness Center Partnership, has touched so many lives and helped them on their path to a whole and productive Life.

Thank you again for allowing me to practice my Ministry at St. Johns. I am deeply grateful and appreciative to serve God in this capacity.

As we go forward in our Walk with God, let it be one that truly pleases Him.

Thank you again, Reggie



Rev. Sean George

Hello, Saint John's!

Praised be our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! All Christians are blessed, by virtue of our baptism, to bear the name of Jesus on our soul. For such a name grants great blessings, as well as great responsibilities. I believe I am doubly blessed to have the

A New Face

by Rev. Sean George

privilege to serve among you at St. John's during my time here in Americus.

By God's grace, I have a great desire to bring people to a greater knowledge and love of our God and Father. Presently I am serving as a non-stipendiary Associate Priest at our Cathedral, Holy Cross, in Loganville, GA. In my secular work, I am a project director with First Community Development. In this capacity, I provide strategic planning, feasibility analysis, and project management services for major fundraising campaigns of \$1 million or more in the Southeast United States. I work with corporate organizations such as Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Councils, Downtown Revitalization Authorities, and other selected non-profit organizations. I am currently working on an Economic Development Project here in Sumter County. As such, my time will be split between Americus and Loganville during the next eight months, which will allow me to share ministry with you during my time here. I sincerely look

forward to working with you, the family of St. John's, in this portion of our Lord's Vineyard.

On a personal note, I was born in Staten Island, NY and raised in Buford, GA. I have a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Theology (M.Th.), and a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a

focus in Leadership.

As stated above, I look forward to sharing ministry with all of you at St. John's. I very much look forward to getting to know all of you. The challenges and experiences that are ahead of me I know will only go toward making me a better person and, by God's grace and your prayers, the dedicated priest I strive to be.

In closing, I thank you all for the lovely, warm welcome I have received thus far. I thank you, in advance, for the prayers and support I know you will give me during my time among you. Please be assured of my prayers and support for each of you and your families. God Bless!

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,
Sean+

Rev. Sean George
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December

15-Nancy & Pete
Warlick



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

2-Sydney Joiner
4-Jeff Joiner
9-Tyler Brenner
17-Jo Beth Parker Key
24-Selby Fowler
25-George Peagler
26-France Pierce

Be Careful What You Pray For

by Fr. Jim Parker

My friends, be careful what you pray for because you just might get it! I have been praying for a long time for a vision on how to develop younger people or families into our congregation. At the day of Pentecost a young man came to our Church exploring the Anglican faith. He had studied about this faith in seminary, however,

had never experienced it. An orthodox faith with biblical foundation. He found what he had been looking for all these years. He is now studying deeper into our faith and looks forward to helping develop younger families into our congregation.

A few weeks ago another young man was assigned a project by his company in Sumter County. This person is a bi-vocational priest and will be making St. John's his parish away from home for the next nine months. He has an interest in developing a ministry with college students

Isn't it wonderful to see how God works!

He knows our needs even before we ask and I am convinced that he will supply our needs in his time.

What we are called to be is be thankful and faithful with the gifts God has given us and never be afraid to put them to use.

In the gospel of Matthew, Mt. 25:14-30, this parable discusses how God dispenses talents or gifts and how we are to use these blessings when they are bestowed upon us. We are not to hide or hoard talents but put them to work for the glory of God.

I am confident that if we are faithful with these talents God will bless us even more.





Hi everyone! With Advent just around the corner (December 1), we'd like to share two resources with you

1. Our very first book!
2. Our updated Rookie Anglican Guide to Advent.

First, we just published our first book: "A Thrill of Hope: Celebrating Advent at Home," by Ashley Wallace!

Have you ever wondered if there's more to "the Christmas season" than frantic shopping and unbridled consumerism? In A Thrill of Hope:

Celebrating Advent at Home,

Ashley Wallace gives you everything you need to recover the ancient Christian season of Advent with your family and friends this year. Here's what's inside:

- What are the Seasons of the Church?
- What is Advent?
- How to Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Advent
- Ways to Celebrate Advent
- Advent Devotions
- Advent Recipes

Whether you'd like to learn more about the history and meaning of Advent or you're just on the lookout for some tasty Advent recipes, let Ashley be your Advent guide! **Buy the book and leave a review on Amazon!**

We've updated our Rookie Anglican Guide to Advent!

Updated for Advent 2019, our Rookie Anglican Guide to Advent contains everything we could think of to introduce people to the season of Advent!

Advent: A Rookie Anglican Guide covers the following:

- What is Advent?
- Why is it called "Advent"?
- What are some common practices during Advent?
- What's the difference between Advent music and Christmas music?
- Songs for Advent
- Advent Collects and Collect Reflections
- Other Advent posts at Anglican Pastor
- Other Advent resources

As we say in the "Foreword" to A Thrill of Hope, *At Anglican Pastor, we're dedicated to making Anglicanism accessible to everyone from Anglican leaders to the "Angli-curious."* Along those lines, we're convinced that *making Advent accessible is one of the best possible introductions to the seasons of the Church calendar.* We hope that A Thrill of Hope and our Rookie Anglican Guide to Advent are helpful resources!

Our King and Savior now draws near: O come, let us adore him! From all of us at Anglican Pastor, we wish you a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!

~Joshua Steele, Managing Editor



Coffee & Conversation

We welcome everyone to coffee and conversation each Sunday in the Parish Hall from 9:30-10:00 AM. This will give us an opportunity to visit before Church and at the same time give people a quiet time to pray in the sanctuary before Church. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!



Men's Christian Fellowship

December's Fellowship will include everyone. December 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Catered by 2 Dukes BBQ. Menu: Baked Ham, Gluten free Au-gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Fresh Strawberries & Homemade Brownies with whipped cream, tea.



Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm

DECEMBER ROTA

DATE	LEM	LECTER	USHERS	ACOLYTE
12/1	Jeff Joiner	Andrea Thomas	Sid Cameron	Sydney Joiner
12/4		Debbie Standridge		
12/8	Beth Cameron	Susan Curtis	Tony Chase	
12/11		Jeff Joiner		
12/15	George Peagler	David Snell	Sid Cameron	Sydney Joiner
12/18		Susan Curtis		
12/22	Debbie Standridge	Beth Cameron	Jeff Joiner	
12/25				
12/29	Andrea Thomas	David Snell	Alan Curtis	