The season of Advent brings a flurry of preparation. In our homes, we are decorating and shopping, cooking and visiting. In church, we are preparing for the coming of the Christ.

Advent begins by focusing on the Second Coming. We remember that Jesus is coming again— that he may in fact be coming at any moment— so we who follow him must live in readiness for his return. Christ’s return will be a wonderful day for the faithful. The dead will be raised to life, sin will be defeated, creation will be renewed, and we will be perfected. On the other hand, Christ’s return gives us urgency to share the Good News of Jesus’ victory and lordship with our neighbors. When Christ returns, his judgments will be final. Our prayer is that he will find faith in many.

Advent next moves to the ministry of John the Baptist. John was Jesus’ cousin, and his calling was to prepare the way for Jesus. The centerpiece of John’s message was his exhortation, “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” John the Baptist’s radical witness challenged the faithful to rethink how they were living and to be on the lookout for God’s hand moving in the world.

Jesus’ incarnation as Son of Man and Son of God is a miracle worth celebrating. It is God’s opening move of salvation. But it is also a move that he had been preparing for generations, and it initiated a sequence which will not end until Christ’s triumphant return.

Advent is a time of preparing, of getting ready, and of watching for God’s saving hand. May your heart be full of anticipation and of the joy of the Lord this Advent.

In Christ,

Jim

Jim Barton
Synod

The Anglican Diocese of the South held its annual Synod and Conference the weekend of November 3-5 at the Cathedral in Loganville. Sheilla and I were proud to serve as St. John’s delegates to the meetings. The theme of the Synod was “Preaching, Teaching and Living in the Word in the 21st Century”. In the Friday evening Eucharist service, the Archbishop restated the theme of his ministry—Forward, Always Forward, Everywhere Forward, and reminded us that without Christ we can do nothing but with him we can bear much fruit.

The speaker at Saturday’s Plenary Session was Rev. Vaughan Roberts, rector of St. Ebbes Anglican Church in Oxford, England. Rev. Roberts is well known as a teacher of preaching and spoke on the importance of preaching and how to adapt it to the changing world.

Highlights of the meetings included being surrounded by a large group of Anglicans, something we don’t get to experience in our own parish. Most striking, though, was the singing with so many voices raised in joyful noise.

By: David Snell

WOMEN’S WINTER BIBLE STUDY
Galatians: an At His Feet Bible Study

“Do you find yourself questioning how God feels about you after a particularly sinful day? Do you wonder if you need to do something to get back into his good graces? Listen in on Paul's conversation with the churches in Galatia as he tells them over and over how they are saved and stay saved only by Christ's work, not theirs. Through Old Testament saints, word pictures, and even shocking language, Paul will convince you that Jesus's work was enough, and will always be enough, not only to pay for your offenses against God, but by the Holy Spirit to make you a new creature.”

Come join us for a women's Bible study on Galatians this winter that will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 for 8 weeks starting January 18th (skipping only one week for Ash Wednesday). We hope you will join us as we dive into Galatians to learn, grow, and understand the word of God together so that we might know Him more. Feel free to invite a friend to join in! You can find the study on Amazon by searching “Galatians at his feet studies”. It should be less than $10. Let Kelsey know if you need help finding the book!
Vestry Nominations
Vestry nominations are now being accepted for the upcoming year. Please have prior consent to submit someone for nomination to the Vestry. All nominations may be submitted to the Church office on or before December 31, 2022.

Christmas Party at Alan and Susan Curtis'
December 17, 2022
7:00 PM
303 E. Church St.

Just look for the lights!

Come help us “Deck the Halls” of St. John’s on December 22. Contact Everett Byrd for more information.
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.

Men’s Christian Fellowship

Everyone is invited to the Advent Dinner
December 13, 2022
6:00 PM
Parish Hall
Meal Catered

Vestry Meeting

December 20, 2022
6:00 PM

December

15-Pete & Nancy Warlick

December

2-Sydney Joiner
4-Jeff Joiner
8-Jan Hobgood

24-Selby Fowler
25-George Peagler
26-France Pierce

happy anniversary

Happy Birthday
December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve Services
6:00 P.M.

December 25, 2022
Christmas Day Services
10:00 A.M.
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