

The Disciple



St. John's Anglican Church, 230 Southland Rd., Americus GA 31709

During Sunday morning worship this month, several of our lessons will be drawn from Paul's letter to the Philippians. I plan to preach on the Philippians lessons at least a couple times, and so I wanted to spend some time in the *Disciple* introducing the letter and giving some background.

The city of Philippi was an interesting place with a distinguished history. It was named for Philip II of Macedon, Alexander the Great's father. Its location was along an important trade route and the city itself was near some valuable gold mines.

The city was also the site of a major battle in the civil war that engulfed the Roman Empire following the assassination of Julius Caesar. It was at Philippi that Mark Antony and Octavian--who would later be known as Caesar Augustus--defeated Cassius and Brutus, thereby avenging Caesar's chief assassins.

Over the years, Philippi became one of Caesar Augustus' favorite places to settle the veterans of his armies after they were honorably discharged. The land was good, it was near the sea, it had its own gold mines, it was along an important road. Philippi had it all!

But for me, one of the most interesting facts about Philippi is that it was the first place where the gospel was preached in Europe.

While on a missionary journey, Paul and Silas had been working in the region we now know as Turkey, and had intended to stay in Turkey. But they were led by the Holy Spirit and by a dream Paul had to cross over into Greece--into Europe--instead. Once they entered Europe, Philippi was the first city they came to.

Acts 16 tells us that Paul and Silas' visit to Philippi bore

fruit. Through their ministry in Philippi, Lydia was converted, as was the city's jailer. Both of their households were baptized. From this beginning, the church in Philippi was born.

Paul's letter to the Philippians was written probably about ten years after Paul first visited Philippi, when Paul was in a much different situation.

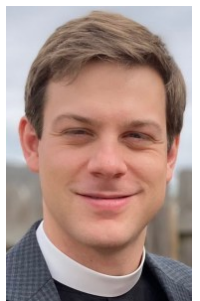
When Paul wrote Philippians he was in prison and was preparing to go on trial. In the Roman world, the empire did not provide prisoners with food or any of the basic necessities. The imprisoned depended on friends to get provisions for them. The Philippian church, hearing of Paul's imprisonment, had taken it upon themselves to collect some funds for Paul, and they had sent them to him.

The letter to the Philippians that we have in our Bibles is Paul's grateful response to this generous gift. The keynote of the letter is in Philippians 1:6, where Paul writes, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

This letter is one of encouragement. Paul believes the church in Philippi is on the right track and that they are truly his partners in the gospel. Paul is encouraging the Philippians to continue on the road they're on--to keep going deeper into the heart of Jesus Christ, to keep being formed by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to keep living in obedience to God the Father.

As we study this letter, my hope is that you also will be encouraged to see Jesus more clearly and to follow him more deeply.

In Christ,
Jim



Jim Barton



Each month our Ministry Spotlight highlights a ministry our church partners with and supports. This month we are highlighting Sumter Humane Society.

SUMTER HUMANE SOCIETY

Dedicated to saving lives, the Sumter Humane Society was founded in 1984 to care for the orphan cats and dogs in Sumter County, GA as a result of abandonment, over population, and human neglect.

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Sumter Humane Society makes an impact in the community. Many of the pets at the shelter receive vaccinations and medical care for the first time in their lives. Each year we transfer over 500 dogs and cats to rescue facilities all over the United States and over 200 go to new loving homes. By utilizing grants and other creative programming like the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, over 200 community owned dogs and cats are sterilized. Governed by an all volunteer board of directors, and managed by a small paid staff and volunteers, the shelter is a beacon of light for the unloved and unwanted. The shelter receives only enough funding from the City of Americus and Sumter County to hold an animal five days. Basic medical care, vaccinations, testing, and all fees to save a cat or dog through rescue must be raised through tax deductible donations, grants, and endowments. The SHS receives no state, federal, or national humane organizations funding. Donations of money, pet products, and other supplies are welcome and needed.



Can You Help!

We need Volunteers for our orphans....to socialize, love, bathe, and just be there for our babies...If you are interested in volunteering please contact the shelter at 229-924-0268 or stop by...We also need help on offsite adoptions and transporting our orphans if you are interested!!!

Donation Items

Wish & Needs List

- Monetary donations
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Dish Soap (Dawn, Ajax, etc)
- Laundry Detergent
- Pine Sol
- Bleach
- Odoban (available at Sam's)
- Towels
- Gallon size Ziploc Bags
- Glass Cleaner (Windex, etc)
- Multipurpose Cleaner (409, etc)
- Cat Toys
- Cat Trees
- Cat Litter pans
- Cat Food/Water Bowls
- Water buckets
- Dog food pans
- Dog beds (small)
- Dog crates (wire, all sizes)
- Carries (Pet Taxis, small)
- General office supplies (copy paper, file folders, pens, note pads, paper clips, etc)
- Puppy & Kitten formula
- Puppy & Kitten dry food
- Puppy Pee Pads
- Baby Wipes
- Blankets
- Bags of Dog & Cat Food

Holy Chow

“Come to the feast, there is room at the table. Come let us meet in this place. With the King of all kindness Who welcomes us in, with the wonder of love, and the power of grace”. [Vagabonds, Stuart Townsend]

And feast we did. Another successful Holy Chow. We came to the table and enjoyed great food and good old fashioned Christian fellowship. Many thanks to all for the delicious side dishes and desserts. What a blessing it is to be part of a loving community of saints, supporting one another through good times and bad. And enjoying some great meals along the way!



Blessing Of The Animals

Wednesday, October 4, 2023
6:00 PM



Blessing of Law Enforcement

St. Michael is actually an Archangel, is the “Guardian of Israel” and, according to the book of Revelation, does battle with Satan, subduing him. For his exploits he is considered the patron saint of law enforcement. For the past few years, St. John’s has honored his Feast Day, September 29, with a blessing of local law enforcement personnel. That custom continued this year with a visit to the Sheriff’s Office, where Fr. Jim read prayers of safety and blessing for the Sheriff and his deputies, and treat bags were distributed. It is heartwarming to see how greatly appreciated this annual event is by the men and women who put themselves on the line to protect us all.



November 5, 2023

Inserts for submitting names will be in the bulletins soon.



Calling All Singers

We will have a choir for the Christmas Eve Service.
If you are interested in being a part of the choir,
contact Everett Byrd.



Men's Christian Fellowship

October 10, 2023
6:00 PM

Smoked Brisket and Sides
Parish Hall
Bring a friend and join us.



MEETING NOTICE!

Vestry Meeting

October 24, 2023
6:00 PM

October

12-Randy & Ashley Ray
24-Tam & Brooke Olinger



happy anniversary

October

11-Susan Crosby
13-Beth Cameron
13-Phyllis Daniel
13-Mimi Jennings

16-Luke Barton
18-Brandon Ray
19-Bucky Bliss



OCTOBER ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	LEM	LECTOR	USHER	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
10/1	Holy Communion	Beth Cameron	Everett Byrd	Jeff Joiner	Kelsey Barton
10/4	Blessing of The Animals				
10/8	Holy Communion	Lou Chase	Peter Banse	Brady Fowler	Beth Cameron
10/11	Evening Prayer & Healing		Jeff Joiner		
10/15	Holy Communion	George Peagler	Hunter Peak	Hunter Trollinger	Lou Chase
10/18	Evening Prayer & Healing		Beth Cameron		
10/22	Holy Communion	Jeff Joiner	France Pierce	Sid Cameron	Angie Trollinger
10/25	Evening Prayer & Healing		Everett Byrd		
10/29	Holy Communion	David Snell	Courtney Wingfield	Hunter Peak	Selby Fowler