

The Disciple



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

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.

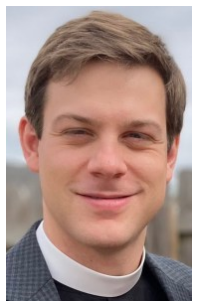
Advent next moves to the ministry of John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin, and his calling was to prepare the way for Jesus. The centerpiece of John's message was his exhortation, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." John the Baptist's radical witness challenged the faithful to rethink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

It's only when we've laid the groundwork of Advent by working through the Second Coming and the ministry of John the Baptist that we are ready to focus on the preparations for Jesus' First Coming: the annunciation of Christ's coming to Jesus' mother, Mary. In this preparation, we see the Holy Spirit at work, creating and sustaining the family that would raise Jesus as he prepared for his public ministry.

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



Each month our Ministry Spotlight highlights a ministry our church partners with and supports. This month we are highlighting Angel Tree with Perry Wellness Center



Angel Tree-Perry Wellness Center

Angel Tree is a ministry through Perry Wellness Center in which gifts are provided for the children and grandchildren of the peers. Unlike past years, St. John's will not provide physical gifts for the children. The Vestry has voted to make a monetary donation to Perry Wellness Center designated for Christmas gifts for the children.



Men's Fellowship

November's Men's Fellowship dinner was a great success! Over thirty men came together for a low country broil. The food was so good that we couldn't get pictures before it was gone! Hunter Trollinger and Brandon Ray expertly manned the cook pots. We ended the evening, as always, with compline—food for the body and food for the soul.



Rector Search Update

Pursuant to the bylaws, a search committee has been formed composed of Sr. Warden, David Snell, Jr. Warden, Lou Chase, and vestry members Anne Peagler, Jeff Joiner and William Rambo. The actual search won't begin until after the first of the year. In the meantime, the vestry will prepare congregational and rector profiles that the Diocese can use to promote the position. Our old friend Cannon Sean George is the diocesan liaison, and he will be leading a retreat with the vestry in December to help us prepare.

Second Harvest

The November Second Harvest food distribution in Plains was a huge success. Some 51,000 pounds of food was distributed to 420 families. Hunter and Leigh Peak were joined by Lou Meyers and Angie Trollinger, helping pack the food and hand it out. The next distribution will be on Saturday, December 16. Give some thought to sharing your Christmas spirit in this truly Christian endeavor—sharing of our bounty to feed God's people in need.



Christmas Eve Schedule

December 24, 2023
10:00 AM—Morning Prayer followed by
Hanging of the Greens
6:00 PM—Holy Communion

No Service Christmas Day

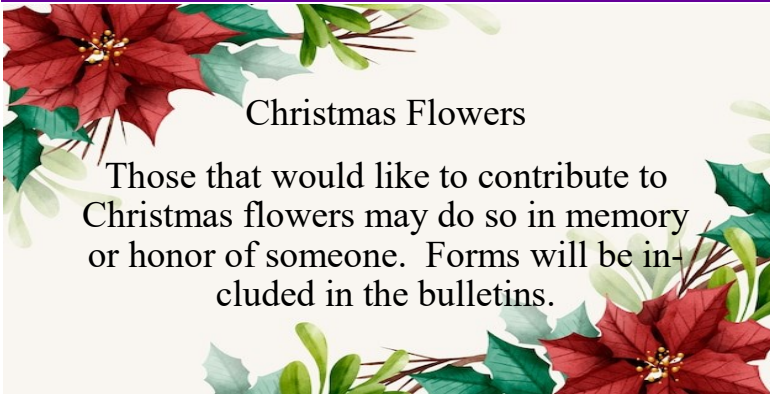


I want to thank the Vestry and the Congregation for allowing me to be the lay delegate representative for St. John's at the 2023 ADOTS Synod and Conference held at Holy Cross Cathedral in Loganville, Georgia. Father Jim and I attended the Synod Business Meeting held on November 3, 2023, and we voted on three revisions to the existing Canons. In addition, we were provided information as to the strength of the Anglican Diocese of the South. With confidence I am proud to report that the Diocese is healthy and blessed both in growth and finances. Consistent with this year's Diocesan Synod theme, we are witnessing to our communities and transforming the world with Christ.

From the perspective of a parishioner at St. John's, I take great pride in our leadership and our Diocese through the efforts and exceptional work of our Rector, Father Jim. As you would imagine, Father Jim is very well received by his fellow clergy and quite frankly, he makes us all look good!

We were led in prayer by the Most Rev. Dr. Foley T. Beach as well as the Rt. Rev. J. Behan. Their enthusiasm and spiritual brilliance paint the promising picture as to why the strength of the Anglican Diocese of the South is so strong and growing. Again, my most sincere appreciation to you all for having provided me with this fantastic Christian experience!

In Christ,
William Rambo

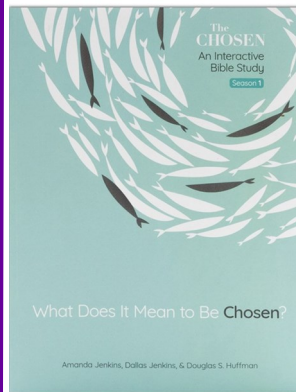


Christmas Flowers

Those that would like to contribute to Christmas flowers may do so in memory or honor of someone. Forms will be included in the bulletins.

Women's Christmas Cookie Exchange

This year for a time of women's fellowship we will have a Christmas cookie exchange on Thursday, December 14th at 6pm. Make 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and be ready to exchange them with everyone. Also bring the recipe to share with others! It will be a fun time for us to enjoy time together. We will have snacks and a good time together!



Women's Winter Bible Study

What Does It Mean to be Chosen?

The Women's winter Bible study will kick off on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:30pm and will meet in the Parish Hall. We are going to

be working our way through The Chosen TV series Bible study curriculum for nine weeks. Since we will not be watching the show together during our meeting time, it will be helpful for our discussion if you have watched it each week prior to coming. The show can be watched for free at watch.thechosen.tv. We will be studying scripture together each Wednesday as it relates to the show. The book can be bought online at new.thechosen.tv, christianbook.com, or Amazon. Please don't let the cost of the book deter you if you need assistance the church would be happy to help! And please reach out to Kelsey (205-915-4481) if you have any questions.



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

None for December



Vestry Meeting
December 19, 2023
6:00 PM



December

15-Pete & Nancy Warlick
21-Mike & Susan Crosby



December

2-Sydney Joiner	24-Selby Fowler
3-Reagan Trollinger	25-George Peagler
4-Jeff Joiner	26-France Pierce
8-Jan Hobgood	30-Christian Abercrombie
9-Tyler Brenner	

DECEMBER ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	LEM	LECTOR	USHER	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
12/3	Holy Communion	Beth Cameron	Courtney Wingfield	Jeff Joiner	Selby Fowler
12/6	Evening Prayer & Healing		Jeff Joiner		
12/10	Holy Communion	Lou Chase	Susan Curtis	Brady Fowler	Kelsey Barton
12/13	Evening Prayer & Healing		Everett Byrd		
12/17	Holy Communion	Jeff Joiner	Peter Banse	Hunter Trollinger	Beth Cameron
12/20	Evening Prayer & Healing		Susan Curtis		
12/24	AM Morning Prayer	Beth Cameron	Hunter Peak	Sid Cameron	
12/24	PM Holy Communion	Lou Chase	Susan Curtis	Jeff Joiner	
12/27	Evening Prayer & Healing		Beth Cameron		
12/31	Holy Communion	David Snell	Jeff Joiner	Hunter Peak	Lou Chase