

# The Disciple



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2023 has been another strong year at St John's. We celebrated the baptisms of two children, confirmed three adults, and received seven. We had more weddings than funerals. Our average Sunday attendance increased over 15%. These are just a few of the more tangible indicators of the fruitfulness we've experienced at St John's over the past year. Financial giving for the calendar year is finishing strong, and the vestry has shown skillful and dedicated leadership throughout.

As we look ahead to 2024, we know that we are entering into a year of transition. I will continue to serve as rector until the summer, and then my family and I will be moving to Tuscaloosa to plant a church there. The vestry has formed a search committee and is working in conjunction with the Diocese to prayerfully call St John's next rector. Sr Warden David Snell is chairing the search committee.

But in spite of the transition ahead, I am confident 2024 will be full of gospel opportunities. The harvest is plentiful, and we must keep our eyes and ears peeled for the places God is calling us to enter into and be his witnesses in. There are many in our community who don't know Jesus yet but desperately need him. Our task is simply to help make the introduction.

But to do that effectively, we must make sure that we ourselves are surrendered fully to Jesus Christ. We must know his Word, trust in his promises, and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will only see the harvest if we are looking with Christ's eyes. Worldly eyes are sure to miss it. It is Jesus who must be the Lord of our lives: we are not our own but were bought with a price.

It is on the cross where we see both the depth of our sin and the riches of God's love. Our sin carries with it the penalty of death. Our sin is such that its forgiveness required the death of our King, Jesus. And yet, God's love is so strong that Jesus was willing to die on our behalf. What's more, Jesus' righteousness was so complete and his obedience to the Father so perfect that God raised him from the dead, conquering sin and death and leading many to everlasting life in his triumphant kingdom.

This is our wonderful story to tell, and I am looking forward to continuing to tell it alongside you in the coming year.

In Christ,

Jim



Jim Barton



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



GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN

### InterVarsity at Georgia Southwestern State University

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is an evangelical Christian ministry that ministers on college & university campuses across the United States. Since 1941, InterVarsity has had a vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, courageously proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, engaging in discipleship around Scripture, and loving people of every ethnicity and culture. Our vision is to see students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, and world changers developed.

InterVarsity at Georgia Southwestern believes that there is a need for real hope in the lives of every college student on every corner of the campus, hope that is found only in Jesus Christ. In response to God's love, InterVarsity at GSW desires to be a loving community that invites others to explore Jesus together.

The primary way we invite students to explore Jesus is through studying His word in small groups on campus. We empower students through discipleship and evangelism training to share the Gospel on campus & lead others in exploring faith in Jesus. We host outreach events to invite students on campus into our community and participate in conferences to help students say yes to the Spirit's call on their lives. We encourage service to God's purposes in the world through domestic and international missions.

Ways you can partner & support the ministry of InterVarsity at GSW include prayer, financially, & volunteering.

If you are interested in learning more about InterVarsity and/or partnering, reach out to Christian Abercrombie at [christian.abercrombie@intervarsity.org](mailto:christian.abercrombie@intervarsity.org) or (229) 947-1585.





## Bishop's Visit

Bishop Frank and our old friend and Canon to the Ordinary Sean George visited us on December 10. The Bishop confirmed three, Christian Abercrombie, Seth Parks & Brandon Ray, and received another seven, Lijah Hobgood, Hunter & Leigh Peak and Stan & Angie Trollinger, Hunter & Casey Trollinger into the church. Be sure to welcome these new members! It was a great day of growth for the church and we had an outstanding Holy Chow feast to celebrate.



**St. John's Annual Meeting**  
**January 28, 2024**  
**Immediately following the service of**  
**Holy Communion**

**There will be no Vestry election this year.**



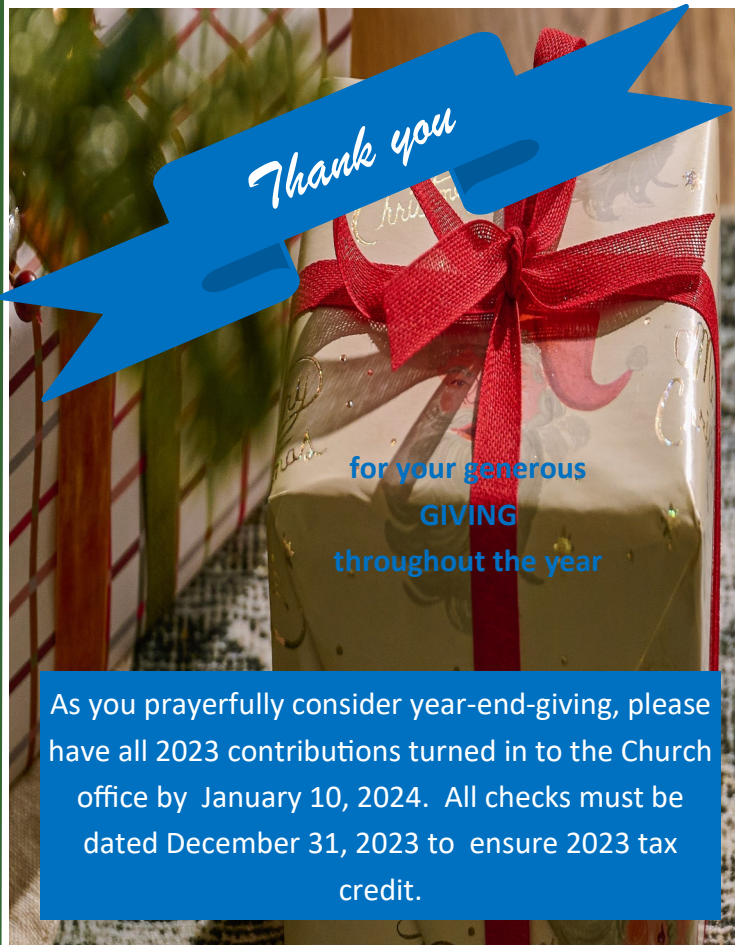
# Twelfth Night

January 6, 2024

7:00 PM

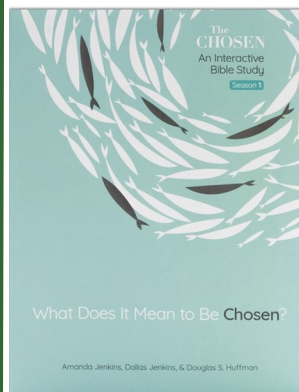
Gather at the Fire Pit

Come and join the fellowship and  
light refreshments



As you prayerfully consider year-end-giving, please have all 2023 contributions turned in to the Church office by January 10, 2024. All checks must be dated December 31, 2023 to ensure 2023 tax credit.

Please join us to celebrate the  
*90<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
of  
*Alice Davidson*  
Saturday, January 6, 2024  
2:00-4:00 pm  
Magnolia Manor Clubhouse  
2001 South Lee Street  
Americus, Georgia  
Your presence  
is her gift



## 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](http://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](http://new.thechosen.tv), [christianbook.com](http://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.



**Men's Christian Fellowship**  
**January 9, 2024**  
**Bring a steak and a friend!**



**Vestry Meeting**  
 January 16, 2024  
 6:00 PM

**January**

3-John & Alice Davidson



**January**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3-Alice Davidson     | 20-Ron Hall       |
| 5 -Debbie Standridge | 21-June Pierce    |
| 10-Mike Crosby       | 22 -Everett Byrd  |
| 16 -Sid Cameron      | 31-Bryton Hawkins |
| 20-Aimee Argo        |                   |



# JANUARY ROTA

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>LEM</b>	<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>USHER</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
1/3	Evening Prayer & Healing		Susan Curtis		
1/7	Holy Communion	Lou Chase	Peter Banse	Jeff Joiner	Angie Trollinger
1/10	Evening Prayer & Healing		Everett Byrd		
1/14	Holy Communion	David Snell	Susan Curtis	Brady Fowler	Selby Fowler
1/17	Evening Prayer & Healing		Jeff Joiner		
1/21	Holy Communion	Beth Cameron	Hunter Peak	Hunter Trollinger	Kelsey Barton
1/24	Evening Prayer & Healing		Everett Byrd		
1/28	Holy Communion	Jeff Joiner	George Peagler	Hunter Peak	Beth Cameron
1/31	Evening Prayer & Healing		Beth Cameron		