

The Disciple



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

The month of February marks a transition in the church calendar. We go from basking in the afterglow of Christmas and studying the opening moves of Jesus' public ministry to preparing our hearts for Holy Week in a season of fasting and repenting.

This February we will celebrate the final two Sunday's of Epiphany (World Mission Sunday and Transfiguration Sunday) as well as the first two Sunday's of Lent. We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14 and a fun night of congregational fellowship the prior evening, February 13, for Shrove Tuesday.

There's something fitting about the season of Epiphany's placement during the winter. The landscape is bare and the air is either cold and crisp or soaked with rain. The ground is preparing to push the new growth of the coming spring. But it's not time for that yet. There's still important work to be done before creation bears its fruit.

In the same way, before we can bear fruit, we must first encounter Christ's living Word. It reaches us when we bare our hearts to it, suspending our disbelief and entering the strange world of the Bible, not as skeptics, but as disciples.

The season of Epiphany follows the Christmas season, and gets its momentum and energy from the incarnation of Christ. We are buoyed up by the new life offered us in Jesus. We long for others to see the light as we have seen it, and so Epiphany has a nice missional edge to it.

Lent, on the other hand, has a penitential edge. We turn from Epiphany's outward focus to Lent's more inward focus. In terms of emphasis, we turn from orienting ourselves (and pointing others!) toward the light of Christ during Epiphany to rooting out the darkness that remains in our own hearts during Lent. Lent is a far more introspective season than Epiphany.

It's a sharp transition, and the service that marks the transition is appropriately pointed in its own right. Ash Wednesday is the service that begins the season of Lent. It is here where we remember our own mortality: "from dust you were created and to dust you shall return."

The strength of the liturgical calendar is precisely in walking us through sequences like the one we will navigate this month. We are invited to participate in the full range of human emotions, from joy to sorrow, from mission to penitence.

Jesus himself has walked this road before us and is with us each and every step of the way. We experience the Lordship of Christ in both the evangelical zeal of Epiphany and the introspective penitence of Lent.



Jim Barton

Twelfth Night

From early times Christians have celebrated Twelfth Night by burning their Christmas greens . The tradition may have begun as early as the sixth century and was widely practiced by Anglicans from the sixteenth century on. The celebration marks the Light of Christ coming into the world, and we celebrated it in grand style here at St. John’s. We had a roaring fire, hot chocolate and excellent entertainment for the youngest men of the church. It was a delightful ending to the Christmas season.



St. Simon’s Anglican Church

St. John’s was happy to donate a reredos to St. Simon’s Anglican Church in St. Simon’s Georgia. It has been installed and it looks great!



First Baptism's of 2024



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

St. John's held its annual meeting on January 28. Fr. Jim reported on last year's achievements, including two baptisms, three new confirmations and seven new members received into the church. He reported that average Sunday attendance has grown to 40. He spoke of the parish's missional activities, including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hands of Hope, Harvest of Hope, Second Harvest and the Interservice Campus Ministry, which is led by our member Christian Abercrombie. He encouraged members to give prayerful thought to their giving, noting that while membership is up 18%, revenue is down 4%. He then thanked the members for the generosity they have shown to him and his family.

Senior Warden David Snell reported on the activities of the Rector Search Committee, noting that the Parish and Rector Profiles are now posted on the ADOTS and ACNA job boards. He advised that we already have a possible candidate and, given the way God has provided in the past, we expect to have a good replacement. The process involves candidates directly approaching us, to be reviewed by the Search Committee and leading candidates will be referred to the vestry.

Junior Warden Lou Chase reported on a number of maintenance and improvement tasks undertaken last year including roof repairs, an improved camera system, a new refrigerator and new kneelers. She thanks Reggie and Phyllis Daniel for their support with the landscaping and mentioned the improved Cross Garden, acknowledging the Hobgood family's the donation of sod.

Lou also spoke to the good work of the Altar guild, noting that all services at St. John's begin and end with their work. She acknowledged the addition of Leigh Peak to the guild and thanked the members for their good work. Sheilla Snell spoke up to thank Lou for her leadership and for teaching the guild members of their duties.

Treasurer Mary Marshall presented a report summarizing the church's revenues and expenses in 2023.

By acclamation, the congregation elected Christian Abernathy as our delegate to this year's Diocesan Synod and Everett Byrd as alternate.

Men's Fellowship/Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Compline to follow.

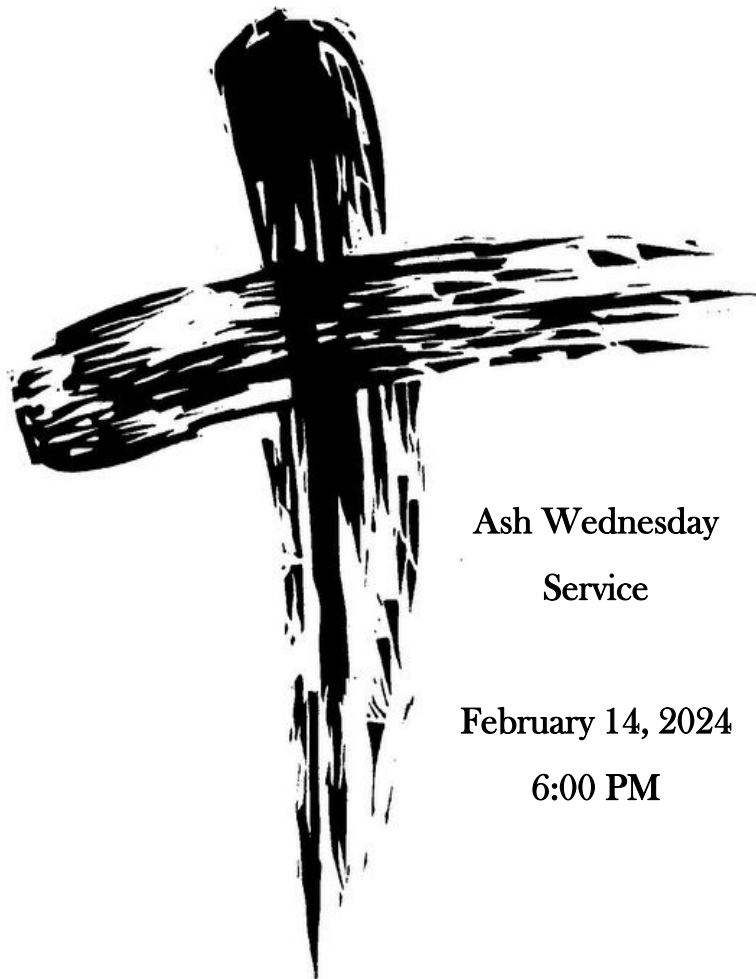
Men, women and friends are invited to a pancake supper.

Men of the Church will prepare pancakes with all sorts of delicious toppings. We will also have sausage patties, links bacon and more.

Join us for food and fellowship.

RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The rector position has now been posted on both the ACNA and the ADOTS job posting. We created a special sub-page on our website with the Parish and Rector Profiles. You can find them by going to stjohnsamericus.org/rector-search. Now we wait for the Good Lord to send us the right candidates!



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024

6:00 PM



Beginning with this issue of The Disciple, we will no longer be mailing the newsletter. We will email to the same list we have in the past. If you would like to continue receiving a copy via postal mail, contact the Church office at 229-924-3380 or email stjohnsanglicanamericus@gmail.com.



Men's Christian Fellowship

February 13, 2024
6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Churchwide Shrove Tuesday
Everyone is invited to a pancake supper.



Vestry Meeting
 February 20, 2024
 6:00 PM

February

7-Alan & Susan Curtis



February



6-George Bagley, V
 8-Hunter Trollinger
 10-Casey Trollinger
 13-Bennett Trollinger
 14-Bobbie Bagley

15-Susan Brenner
 26-Courtney Wingfield
 27-Anne Peagler
 28-Jim Barton

FEBRUARY ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	LEM	LECTOR	USHER	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
2/4	Holy Communion	George Peagler	Lou Chase	Jeff Joiner	Beth Cameron
2/7	Evening Prayer & Healing		Jeff Joiner		
2/11	Holy Communion	David Snell	Susan Curtis	Brady Fowler	Lou Chase
2/14	Ash Wednesday	Lou Chase	Beth Cameron	Jeff Joiner	
2/18	Holy Communion	Lou Chase	France Pierce	Hunter Trollinger	Angie Trollinger
2/21	Evening Prayer & Healing		Everett Byrd		
2/25	Holy Communion	Beth Cameron	Jeff Joiner	Hunter Peak	Selby Fowler
2/28	Evening Prayer & Healing		Susan Curtis		