

THE Shepherd's Fold

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

BACK TO THE BIBLE

Have you ever tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle without having the picture on the box cover to help you know where the pieces are to go? I haven't because I would find myself so frustrated that I would probably quit the puzzle. I need the picture on the box cover to help me know where a piece is to go. I know that there are some people who can put together a puzzle without the picture, but most of us would not attempt it.

The Bible is much like a jigsaw puzzle. The books of the Bible represent thousands of years of history, yet they are not presented in chronological order. Our Bible is composed of 66 books (not counting the Apocrypha) that contain hundreds of different stories. Some of the major characters are known by different names in different books. How are we to know how these books and their stories fit together without knowing the big picture? How do we understand the snippets of Scripture that we hear in church on Sundays if we don't know their place in the overall story? In truth, it is very difficult. In my 43 years of weekly church and Sunday school prior to seminary, I learned many of the stories, but in truth I did not know where many of them fit. How much more sense they have made to me once the big picture came into focus during seminary.

Our Back to the Bible program in 2024 will be our attempt to give parishioners that big picture of the Biblical narrative so that they will understand where the pieces/stories fit. The objective is to read the entire Bible in one year in the context of small group weekly discussions. There will be five different groups that will meet at various times during the week in hopes that everyone who wants to participate will be able to find a workable meeting time. We will publish a monthly schedule of daily readings—an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading, and a psalm—that will cover the entire Bible in 52 weeks. The different groups and their facilitators are listed later along with instructions on joining one of the groups.

Participating in a B2B group will not make you a Biblical scholar. A rigorous Bible study of just the book of Genesis could easily justify a full year of study! Nevertheless, B2B will give you a general overview that will be invaluable as you continue your lifelong engagement with Scripture.

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If you would like a clearer picture of the Biblical narrative, if you want to know how the stories fit together, if you would like to read the stories that get left out of our Sunday lectionary, then find a B2B group that fits your schedule and sign up.

You won't be disappointed.

Feb +

Stewardship
giving back to God

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2024 is wrapping up. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so by the end of this month. We thank you for your continued support and generosity!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

This year we have two devotionals available. The first one, Journey to Joy, is for families, and the focus of this devotional is joy. A joyful heart is possible despite what is happening around us because we know God is faithful and more powerful than our circumstances. With Bible-based reflections to ponder, prayers to pray, and simple faith-based actions, author Kate Wicker helps families to seek the joy of Jesus' birth throughout the Advent season. The second devotional, A Little Child Shall Lead Them, offers daily reflections on both Scripture and selected works of Henri J.M. Nouwen. With depth and clarity, popular author,

blogger, and editor, Elizabeth Scalia, prayerfully unpacks how God's divine love is best revealed through Jesus. Both are available in the lobby. Pick up one today!

NO BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY
Breakfast will resume on January 7th.

MEN'S NIGHT

Join us on Wednesday **January 10**, beginning at 5:30pm. The menu will include Brats and beer, beans, sauerkraut, pie and tea. Please invite someone ! Text or email Robin at 706-736-4460 or email robin.bailie@gmail.com.

SHEPEARD COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person – the gift of life. The Bloodmobile will be parked at the Church of the Good Shepherd back parking lot on **January 7, 9 am - 12:30 pm**. Please consider donating a unit of lifesaving blood.



Advent
Pageant

The children of Good Shepherd will present the annual Advent Pageant on **December 17th** during the 9:00 am service.

CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

December 24 8:00 am Advent IV Service
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Saint
Gregory Choir
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the
Good Shepherd Choir

December 25 11:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us for a celebration of Lessons and Carols presented by the Good Shepherd and St. Gregory Choirs, **December 17th** at 6:30 pm. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share, wine and beverages are provided. Scan the QR code to sign up. The Nursery will be available.



SCAN ME



After a 10-year hiatus, Back to the Bible (B2B) returns to Good Shepherd in 2024! The groups will begin on **January 8**. The five groups offer the following meeting times: Sundays at 10:00 AM and 4:30PM, Tuesdays at

4:00 PM, Wednesdays at 11:00 AM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM. There is also a group that will meet on Sundays at 4:00 PM, but this group will aim to complete the reading in two years rather than one year. Sign up with Signup Genius at **bit.ly/b2bible** and begin a one year journey into the entire Bible.



Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
Organist Wayne Lord
Lay ReaderLynn Tyson, Camilla Davis

9:00 am

Celebrant.....Ted Clarkson
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Ushers Matt Tracy, Mark Pritchett
Verger..... Kathleen Bailie
Lay Readers Katie Tracy, Mitzi McCoy
Acolytes.....Rob Tracy, Kate Tracy, Merritt Jones

11:15 AM

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Ushers Sean Roche, John Manton
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Lay Readers Lynn Smith, Heather Wheeler
Acolytes.....Frank Anderson, Stella Chew
May Roche, Anne Ross Roche, Kate Lee Smith

6:30 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
OrganistJim Nord
Lay ReadersBobbie Ingenito, Jim Price

All Services

Altar Guild Team II
Vestry Person of the DayAlyson Getchell

YOUTH NEWS

Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for up coming events.

For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.



CHILDREN OF THE CRECHE

Be sure to sign up for Children of the Creche this Sunday in the Parish Hall. Sign-up list can be found on the large whiteboard. There are still 2 spots available 5-7 year olds and 2 spots available for 7-9 year olds

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 20th. Grades 6th-12th will gather from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come join us for Caroling, Dinner, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring a gift of \$20 in value or less.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE ACOLYTES

Please head to the Shell Newsletter to sign up for acolyting through Advent and on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve Acolyte Rehearsal is **Thursday, December 21st, at 4pm**. Needed: 4PM Service: Full, 6PM Service: Thurifer, 10PM Service: Crucifer, Torch, Torch.