

# THE Shepherd's Fold

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

## FOCUS

One of the things that I lorded over my twin brother when we were young was my eyesight. Bill had to have glasses from a young age. I, on the other hand, had better than 20/20 vision. Anything that would allow me to be better than Bill was a great thing. At least it was, until it wasn't.

I began to notice a change in my vision in my first year of law school. It probably had something to do with reading the fine print of casebooks for eight hours or more a day. I gradually noticed that I did not see the board at the front of the classroom as I had previously. Trees and other outside objects were not as sharp as I remembered. I decided to see an ophthalmologist, who quickly determined that I was becoming nearsighted and prescribed glasses for me to wear. What a difference that made in my vision! (PS I entered law school with 20/20 vision and left at 20/400)

We are now entering the season of Lent. This is the time of year that we are to focus on our sometimes blurry spiritual lives. I know for myself that my own spiritual life can get into a rut: doing the same thing week after week without any real focus. The longer this goes on, the less attuned am I to my relationship with God. I need to reexamine my spiritual "glasses" in order to bring that relationship into the focus it deserves. This cannot be done in a doctor's office, but it can and should be done in the season of Lent.

Just as mathematical calculations go into the shaping of optical lenses for eyesight correction, there is a mathematical aspect to Lent: the arithmetic of subtraction and addition. Lent is a wonderful time to give up—subtract— aspects of our daily lives that distract us from our focus on God. It is a time to give up some pleasurable aspects of our daily lives so as to give us a daily reminder that we need to be attending to our relationship with Jesus. For me that usually means giving up sweets and limiting alcohol. Trust me, that Lenten discipline reminds me multiple times a day of my need to focus more on Jesus and less on my wants. In the same vein, Lent is a time to add new spiritual disciplines such as attending an additional worship service, attending a new Bible Study, etc. With both addition

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and subtraction, we can sharpen our vision on the God who loves us, the God incarnate with whom we will be journeying to Calvary in the Lenten season.

In the words of the Book of Common Prayer: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (BCP 265).

*Lent* +

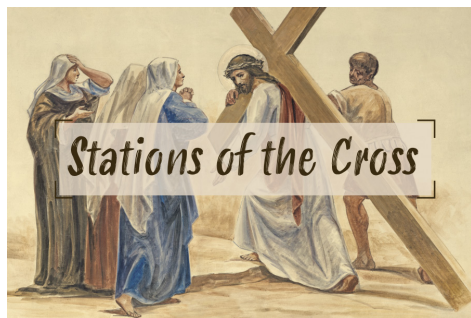
### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Beginning on January 21, the Rector Search Committee began interviewing prospects for the Rector's position. The Committee has now completed the initial round of interviews with all the candidates who submitted applications. The Committee met following the interviews and eliminated some people from further consideration. In addition, several others voluntarily withdrew. We are continuing to evaluate the remaining candidates through various means, to include some additional interviews. We have been assured by those still under consideration that they all should be available, if called, to begin work here this summer. We are appreciative of the continued prayers and support as we go through this important work. Hopefully we will have a candidate to recommend to the Vestry in the near future.

- Ashley Pritchett and Neal Dickert

### FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting week will begin on **March 3rd**, and Family Promise now has a static location at **4211 Wheeler Rd Martinez, GA 30907**. All food and meals will now be delivered to this address with no more hosting at the individual churches. Food donations can still be dropped off & stored in the kitchen at Good Shepherd. A refrigerator and counter space will be labeled for Family Promise. Dinner meals should be delivered to the Family Promise House by 5:30 each evening. We will have sign-up sheets available in the Parish House this weekend. We will receive dietary restrictions from the case manager as soon as they are available.



Stations of the Cross are offered Fridays in Lent at 12:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

### BACK TO THE BIBLE

For the monthly readings pick up a bookmark or navigate to our B2B page: [goodshepherd-augusta.org/b2b](http://goodshepherd-augusta.org/b2b).



*Scan me*

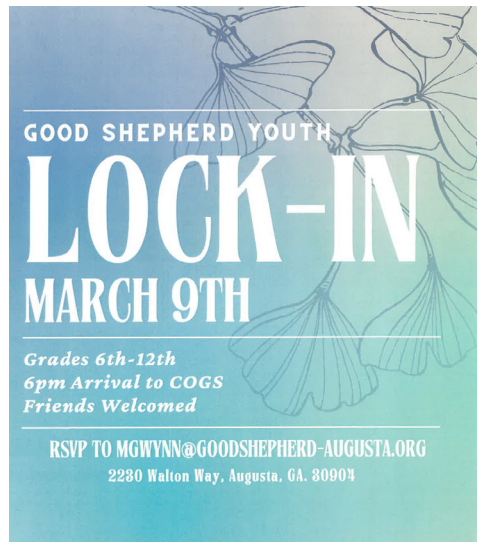
### FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP

Join us Sunday, **March 3**, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to share fried chicken and any dish you would like

to bring. Drinks will be provided. The purpose of Feast & Fellowship is to get to know fellow parishioners in a casual, relaxed setting by sharing a simple meal and having fun. Couple and singles are welcome. Our purpose is to gather monthly in smaller groups and socialize over dinner. There are many ways to do this according to each group's preference. We will be discussing this in detail and asking for your suggestions. Please try to join us and enter to win a surprise door prize! If you can't come and want to be part of a group, email Jan Jackson [infauxcus2001@gmail.com](mailto:infauxcus2001@gmail.com), Laura Rollins [lhrollins@icloud.com](mailto:lhrollins@icloud.com), or Bobbie Ingenito [bobeee8@gmail.com](mailto:bobeee8@gmail.com). Include your name(s), email, street address, and phone number. Looking forward to seeing you on March 3. Bring friends!

### WAGS RESUMES FEB 21ST

Keeping with the theme of Lent, WAGS this Lent will focus on the story of *Les Miserables*, an epic tale of sin, forgiveness, and redemption. We will be watching the movie in five parts (there will be five WAGS suppers in Lent), and then discussing the themes illuminated in the portion of the movie that we just watched. Whether you know it by heart or have never encountered it, Victor Hugo's examination of what it means to be Christian is more instructive to us today than ever. Sign up with the QR code. Dinner is beef stew, salad, biscuits and lemon bars.



# Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, February 18, 2024

8:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist ..... Wayne Lord  
Lay Reader .....Camilla Davis, Jennie Haynes

9:00 am

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Lay Readers ..... Lynn Tyson, Bob Nesbit  
Ushers ..... Kevin McDougal, Mike Leverett  
Verger.....Jean Chadwick  
Acolytes.....Sam Bradford, Rob Tracy, Caroline Doyle

11:15 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist .....Jim Nord  
Lay Readers ..... Yvonne Harrison, Allison Clarkson  
Ushers ..... Jack Dugan, Trey Hargrove  
Verger.....Choppy Woodward  
Acolytes..... Patrick Broome, South Bryan,  
Porter Adams, Merritt Jones

6:00 pm

Preacher & Celebrant.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist .....Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers .....Jim Price, Faith Moore

## All Services

Altar Guild ..... Team II  
Breakfast Ministry ..... Team V  
Vestry Person of the Day ..... Paul Trotter

## 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](mailto:mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org).

### YOUTH GROUP & PRAYER BREAKFAST

Due to Winter Break, we will not be gathering for Youth Group this Sunday, February 18th. We will resume the following Sunday, **February 25th**. Also, we will not be gathering for the Middle School Prayer Breakfast on February 15th. We will resume the following Thursday, **February 22nd**, at 6:45 am at the Andersons.

### OPEN GYM

Students in grades 6th-12th are invited to open gym time at EDS from 3-6pm on Monday, **February 19th**, during Winter Break. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there! Friends welcome!

### YG LOCK-IN

Students in grades 6th-12th are invited to an overnight Lock-In on **March 9th** starting at 6pm. Pick-up will be after Eucharist and breakfast Sunday morning. Friends are welcome! RSVP to Mary Grace Wynn.