

THE Shepherd's Fold

June 11, 2023

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

DO DOGS GO TO HEAVEN?

Sassy, Razor, Clementine, Lucy, Balto, Red, Rufio, Dewey, Stella. A few of our fine collection of beloved dogs. The horror of running over Lucy, our Old English Sheepdog, still haunts me to this day. The memory of Simon carrying his little Razor (white Maltese) out of the woods after she had been kidnapped and killed by an owl still brings tears to my eyes. Red (a red, long, short-legged funny looking rescue), the victim of a hit and run. I remember thinking to myself that Si had just lost the best friend he would ever have. Leverett attached Stella's (black lab) dog tag to his key chain and her ashes sit on a shelf in his office. And then Dewey, who drifted off peacefully in my arms as Lynn Prather prayed over him. There were funerals. And then there was always the question: do dogs go to heaven.

Years ago, I asked that question of Steph Britt. Many of you may remember him. He served here as the associate rector in the early 2000s. He said, "Bunny, God breathes the breath of life into all creatures, and I don't believe that God ever wastes his breath."

Think about that. God breathes the breath of life into each of us...all creatures great and small. His own life-giving breath. Our first breath, the breath of life from God himself.

And then Jesus breathed the gift of the Holy Spirit into the disciples. And at Pentecost, God gifted us with the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who moved over the face of the waters at creation. Who spoke through the prophets. Through whose power Christ became man.

God gives us the breath of life. And then he gives us the Holy Spirit, to sustain us in this life. To give us comfort and guidance. To assure us of God's love and presence. And the gift of the Holy Spirit remains within us until we exhale that very last breath, giving back to God what he so lovingly gave to us, as we surrender ourselves into the arms of Jesus. And there to find our true peace.

I believe that God put dogs here and breathed life into them. I believe that God calls dogs to help the Holy Spirit remind us of God's unconditional love. And of his constant presence. So, yes, I believe that dogs go to heaven. And they, with tails wagging, will be standing there with Jesus to greet us when we get to heaven. And they won't have to wear a collar or a leash anymore!

*But ask the animals and they will teach you;
The birds of the air, and they will tell you;
In his hand is the life of every living thing
And the breath of every human being. (Job 12: 7, 10)*

Keep on keeping on...

Bunny+

KANUGA PARISH WEEKEND

Join us for a crisp, beautiful fall weekend in North Carolina September 29 - October 2! We will have activities for kids and youth, s'mores by the fire, a cabin crawl, drinks and compline on the lake, movie and game night, hiking, and more. Bring your tennis rackets as we will have a friendly round of tennis play on Saturday afternoon. This is a fun weekend that you do NOT want to miss. Pick up a form in the lobby or register online: bit.ly/gskanuga

WORLD FAMOUS ORGANISTS ARE COMING!

Augusta is one of six American metro areas that were awarded regional conventions by the American Guild of Organists, an educational and professional organization with chapters throughout the United States. Augusta and Aiken have members representing 40 churches and a synagogue and are hosting musicians from the Southeast and around the country at a four-day event beginning on June 18th and concluding on June 21st. Complete information on the 4-day event is at www.ago23augusta.org. The evening programs being presented by world-renowned organists are being held at Saint Paul's Church, St. John UMC, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church First Baptist Church in Augusta and these concerts are ticketed. Information on purchasing advance tickets with a credit card is available on the website or at <https://cvent.me/YWg955>. Tickets will also be available at the door prior to each evening concert. Free concerts are being held at First Presbyterian Church, Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church, Reid

Memorial Presbyterian Church, and St. John's United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aiken. Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to hear some of the world's most celebrated organists and bring family and friends.

YOUTH NEWS

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

For any questions, email mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

PJS & PANCAKES

This Sunday, June 11th! Be sure to wear your pajamas and join us for a delicious pancake & bacon breakfast! Immediately following the 10am Service in the Small Parish Hall.

KAYAKING TRIP

Grades 6th-12th. RSVP to Mary Grace Wynn by June 14th! Join us for a day trip to kayak the Broad River in Danielsville, GA on June 17th. We will use the EDS bus to travel from Good Shepherd at 8am on Saturday and be back by 5 pm. \$30 per youth.



SAVE
the
DATE

September 7-10th

Join us at our Diocesan Conference Center
at Honey Creek for Cursillo #127.

August 20th

Our Christian Formation begins.

Join Our
Healing Service
Every Tuesday from 11 am to 12 pm

*Hello
Summer Schedule*

This Sunday we go to our summer schedule of 3 services, 8 am, 10 am & 6 pm. Sunday breakfast and Christian Formation will resume in the fall.

A summer-themed illustration featuring a beach scene. In the top right, there is a colorful beach ball and a pair of sunglasses. In the bottom left, there is a blue and white striped beach towel, a pineapple, and a slice of watermelon. The background is a light beige color with small white dots and starburst patterns.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, June 11, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant.....Joe Bowden
Preacher.....Bunny Simon Williams
Organist.....Wayne Lord
Lay Readers.....Lynn Tyson, Bobbie Ingenito

10:00 am

Celebrant.....Joe Bowden
Preacher.....Bunny Simon Williams
Organist & Choirmaster.....Jim Nord
Verger.....Kathleen Bailie
Lay Readers.....Kelley Norris, Bob Nesbit
Acolytes.....Anabelle Wilkes, Lillian Wilkes

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Sonia Sullivan Clifton
Organist.....Nick Lowery
Lay Readers.....Lynn Smith, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar Guild.....Team I
Vestry Person of the Day.....John Manton



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