

THE Shepherd's Fold

September 10, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost

GRACE

This morning, like just about every morning for the last eight years, I am brought out of my slumber with little puppy licks on my cheek courtesy of Alexis Valentine. Alexis was born on Valentines Day and is the most loving dog I have had in my 83 years, even at 5:30 am.

Alexis is quite persistent and will not stop until I show some signs of life. At that point she rolls over on her back for her morning belly rub and is soon joined by our thirteen-year-old Shih Tzu, Lily Belle, ready for her belly rub.

I offer several prayers during this time. One of the first prayers is gratitude to God for these two impatient puppy alarm clocks who will not leave me alone until I respond to them in love, AKA belly rubs. With this start how can my day be anything but great!

For my entire life God has graced me with the companionship of dogs. Actually, God has graced me with these angels, rather poorly disguised as dogs. For me these wonderful creatures are the up close and personal expression of God's grace. I didn't deserve these puppies and certainly did nothing to earn their unconditional love and loyalty. Alexis and Lily are constant reminders of God's grace – I need that reminder every day!

Alexis and Lily have taught me very important lessons about grace. God works to engage us in the simple things in life, but we tend to resist that grace, but God is persistent. Some mornings I want a few more minutes of sleep. I ignore Alexis Valentine's puppy kisses, but Alexis just like God will have none of it. Alexis will not leave me to my own devices, and neither will God. Alexis says its time to wake up and get up. God says it's time to wake up to a life in Christ.

Grace can be somewhat confusing. Somewhere in that confusion humanity thought that if we do "this" or "that" God will meet us half way. That is wrong. God, like little Alexis Valentine, comes all the way to us. God is right there snuggled up against us licking us on the face wanting us to wake up. He is not going away.

That's why God's grace is called amazing!



PARISH NEWS

Our condolences to Greg and Trina Smith upon the death of Trina's mother, Nelle Watters, August 16, 2023.

PARISH HOUSE UPDATE

The Parish House continues to be closed for renovations. During this time the **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** to visitors. Please call the church office at 706-738-3386 during office hours for assistance. When this work is underway, we will not have air conditioning in the majority of spaces in the Parish House for two weeks. We will continue to offer Christian Formation and the nursery on Sundays, but we are going to be creative in where we meet. All of the groups that meet in the Parish House during the week will have to make other arrangements during this time. Thank you for your patience!

PET BLESSING

Blessing of the Pets on **October 7th** at 10 am. Bring your cats, dogs, snakes, birds, or any pet at all to be blessed and receive a St. Francis pet medal. Pet and human treats provided. DNA (Dog Networking Agents) will be there with pups and kittens. Please bring your donations of puppy pads, small bites dog and cat food and kitty litter.



COGS IN THE WORLD

Due to on going renovations, our first WAGS event will be on **September 20** at 6PM. This fall we will be looking at Christ's love in the world through the lens of various

organizations that Good Shepherd supports in the Augusta area. Come and hear the stories of lives sustained and lives changed through this work. Dinner begins at 6 pm, followed by the program at 6:30 pm, which will include not only a speaker from the organization but also a chance to reflect how we can further Jesus' message of love in the world. We wrap up our program with compline and end at 7:15 pm.



BACK TO THE BIBLE (B2B)

Ten years ago, Good Shepherd started a program of reading the entire Bible in a year in the context of small groups. The program was a great success at the time,. Of course, many who are at Good Shepherd now were not here at that time, so we are going to offer B2B again, starting soon. Keep a lookout for more details!

GOSPEL READING WITH THE SJB

On Thursday, September 14th, all interested parishioners are invited at 4:00 PM to participate in the reading aloud of the Gospel according to Mark. We will gather in the chapel and take turns reading from the Saint John's Bible. Everyone is welcome to stop by for a short period of time or stay through the whole reading - depending on your own schedule. Every Sunday we read a short section of one of the Gospels, but on Thursday we will read Mark from beginning to end; a wonderful opportunity to hear the whole story in one sitting.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

CHRISTIAN FORMATION ROOM RELOCATIONS

CHILDREN

3 Year Olds	Bride's Room
Level I	EDS, Godley Play room
Level II	EDS, Kindergarten
4th & 5 th Grades	Setze Cottage - 2nd floor

NURSERY

INFANTS	Conference Room - West End
Toddlers	Conference Room - East End

YOUTH

Middle School	EDS Gym
High School	Setze Cottage - 2nd floor

ADULTS

Choir	Sanctuary
Sawmill	Setze Cottage - 1st floor
Young Adults	EDS, Library



Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, September 10, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
PreacherTed Clarkson
Organist Sarah Pritchard
Lay Readers Mitzi McCoy, Bobbie Ingenito

9:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
PreacherTed Clarkson
Organist Sarah Pritchard
Choirmaster Pam McCorkle
UshersBill Hollingsworth, Drew Daniel
Verger..... Ed Enoch
Lay ReadersDavid Lentz, Bob Nesbit
Acolytes..... McCord Kilpatrick, Clayton Adams
Porter Adams, Lucy Stewart, South Bryan

11:15 AM

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
PreacherTed Clarkson
Organist Sarah Pritchard
Choirmaster Pam McCorkle
UshersPaul Trotter, Mike Leverett
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Lay Readers Heather Wheeler, Yvonne Harrison
Acolytes..... Jack Helton, Hamp Helton
Elle Benjamin, Raymond Benjamin, Darby Martin

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
OrganistNick Lowery
Lay Readers Anne Floyd, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar GuildTeam I
Vestry Person of the Day Beth McCutcheon

YOUTH NEWS

Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for up coming events. For any questions, email mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

CORNERSTONE EVENT

Join us for our next Cornerstone Event on Saturday, **September 30th**, where we will be hosting a Pet Adoption with local, non-profit, Hands to Paws at St. Augustines Church (3321 Wheeler Road) from 10:30 am-1:30 pm. This will be a fun opportunity for youth to engage with the community while helping rescue animals find forever homes!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Mark your calendars! Acolyte Training is on **September 24th** from 1:30-3pm at the Church. Please plan on being in attendance to be included in the Acolyte Program this year. Open to Grades 3rd & up!

