

THE

Shepherd's Fold

DISCOVER 150 YEARS OF PURPOSE

*December 1, 2019***ADVENT – BOTH/AND or EITHER/OR?**

When you all come to church this Sunday you will notice that things look quite different than they have for the past six months. The vestments and altar colors will have changed from green to blue, and up front there will be a beautiful wreath with four candles but only one will be lighted. – Yes, something has changed – the season of Advent has begun. With that beginning is the ending of the three-year lectionary cycle. Year C is behind us – Year A begins. The Gospel of Matthew will be our focus in the months ahead. As this new church year begins it begins in waiting – waiting for the important arrival of God incarnate as a defenseless baby and waiting for the future end time return of God in glory to reconcile the world.

Advent is that time when we focus on the reality that our faith bridges the past, present and future. Advent is that time when we have the opportunity to face up close and personal those ten words we proclaim in Eucharistic Prayer A – “Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!” If we engage this opportunity in the weeks ahead it will quickly become apparent that Advent opens and blends together every aspect of our daily lives: life and death – judgment and forgiveness – darkness and light – despair and hope – longing and realization. Wow! This is a lot to consider when all of the “stuff” of the “holidays” demands most of our attention – none of us are exempt from that.

Just like when Holy Week and Easter converge with the Masters (as it will in 2020) we are faced with the same question – is it both/and or either/or? As good Anglicans of the *via media* (middle road) the answer to that question is, yes! I struggle with this every Lent/Holy Week/ Easter and Advent/Christmas/Epiphany! Over a long time I have somehow found some peace in a conscious and intentional effort to seek a balance point between one foot in the holy and one foot in the “world.” Unfortunately this requires discipline – not a very popular word specifically during the holiday season.

So, here is what I “intend.” I’m going to go to as many parties as folks will invite me to! I’m going to go to every other holiday celebration I can! I’m going to intentionally set aside times for a deeper walk with God. For this I will need help. One of the best starting points for this action is daily devotionals. By the time you are reading this little epistle you should have received from Good Shepherd a booklet entitled, *I Wonder as I Wander: Devotions for Advent*. In addition to these devotionals I would like to recommend a just released booklet, *A Way to the Manger*. Our Bishop-Elect Frank Logue+ and his wife Victoria wrote several of the devotions, and it is available through Forward Movement Publications.

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One last suggestion – regardless of which devotionals you choose, do them with others. Any journey is more enjoyable in the company of friends!

Peace,



Follow the Star Dinner

Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 6:00 pm. Nursery and supper will be provided for your children. Dinner provided by The Butcher Shoppe; cost: \$10 per adult. Program: Dr. Sid Gates. **RSVP BY NOV 27.**

Your Marital Relationship...healthy or not? At the last FTS dinner, Dr. Gates stated that a healthy marital relationship was key to raising healthy children. Do you value your marital partner? Do you treat your partner with respect? Have you ever considered that the way you treat your spouse serves as the model for your children in how they should behave with others and especially in relationship with their future spouses? What does their behavior with their peers tell us about how they perceive the relationship between their parents? How does your marital relationship form the relationship that your children have with others? What makes a healthy marriage? These and other issues will be addressed by Dr. Gates at the next FTS dinner.

Check out our updated website at www.goodshepherd-augusta.org

Posada Sign Up

Posada travel begins the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Join the Posada tradition at Good Shepherd and sign up in the Parish Hall.

Poinsettia Sale

Pick up an order form in the Parish Hall. Orders must be in by Sunday, Dec. 1st; They will be delivered on Dec. 7th and available to be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Christ Community Meal

Good shepherd will serve the Christ Community Meal on December 7th. For information please contact Lynn Prather, lbprather@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

Blanket Drive

Drop off your NEW fleece blankets in the church lobby to benefit patients at the AU Medical Center.

Tuesday's Lunch and Learn

You are invited to a special Soup Tuesday luncheon, December 10, at noon. Please join us for a warm bowl of homemade soup, Jessie's delicious cornbread, fruit and desert followed by Emily Mumford's instructional presentation on Good Shepherd's new website. Lunch will be served as usual in the Small Parish Hall at noon. Emily's teaching will begin at 12:30. RSVP for this special Soup Tuesday Event by calling the church office 706-738-3386.

Advent at Good Shepherd

Christmas Tree Lighting Service

Bring a friend and join us on the church lawn for hot chocolate and carols as we light our Christmas Tree to begin the Advent Season.

December 1st at 6 PM.

Make an Advent Wreath

Join us at 10:00 AM Sunday, December 1, in the Parish Hall to construct your advent wreath. All are welcome. Please bring greenery and your own clippers. All other materials will be provided at \$15 per wreath. A few boxes of candles will be available for \$5. We hope that you will take this opportunity to make a wreath for an ill or an older parishioner. Call Jinny to select the person you would like to gift with a wreath.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Come hear the Good Shepherd Choir and St. Gregory Choir at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 15. Reception to follow in the parish hall. Please bring a side dish or a dessert. Turkey and ham will be provided.

PARISH REGISTER

Congratulations to Katie and John Bates McCutcheon on the birth of their son John Oliver McCutcheon. Welcoming him are Aunt and Uncle, Amelia and Kevin McDougal and cousins Fripp and Crawford; and Aunt and Uncle, Beth and Ellis McCutcheon, and cousins Eliza and Caroline.

Advent Pageant Auditions:

Calling all fourth and fifth graders

You are invited to audition for a speaking part in the Advent Pageant on December 8, 2019, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Everyone who auditions is guaranteed a role. If you would like a part, be sure to attend. Before committing to becoming a cast member, be sure you can be present on the following dates:

- *Sunday, December 15th: practice at 10:00--Chapel of the Resurrection*
- *Saturday, December 21st: dress rehearsal:--Speaking cast at 9:30, angels & animals join the cast at 10:30, pizza at 12:00*
- *Sunday, December 22nd: Advent Pageant presented at 9:00 service. Arrive at 8:45 to dress; pictures and a reception will follow.*

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, December 1

8:00 am

Celebrant..... Lynn Prather
Preacher Robert Fain
Organist..... Nick Lowery
Lay Readers David Lentz, Jack Speese
Lead Acolyte Stephen Smith

All Services

Vestry..... Mark Burgreen
Altar Guild Team IV
Breakfast Mark Pritchett, Dave Getchell,
Matt Tracy
LEV Mitzi McCoy, Dody Neely

9:00 am

Celebrant..... Andy Menger
Preacher Robert Fain
Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Choir St. Gregory
Vergers Jean Chadwick
Lay Readers Nancy Greenwood, Karen Ellestad
Lead Acolyte Madison Smith
Ushers Matt Tracy, Trey Hargrove

Monday, December 2

Morning Prayer..... 8:00 am Leon Fitts
Grief Group..... 6:15 pm..... Andy Menger

Tuesday, December 3

Morning Prayer..... 8:00 am Chum Balk
Bible Study 10:00 am..... Andy Menger
Healing Service 11:00 am..... Lynn Prather

Wednesday, December 4

Holy Eucharist 7:00 am..... Robert Fain
Morning Prayer 8:00 am Al Metzel
Brandonwilde..... 4:00 pm Andy Menger

Thursday, December 5

Morning Prayer 8:00 am Neal Dickert

Friday, December 6

Morning Prayer 8:00 am .. Mary Anne Haynes

Saturday, December 7

Morning Prayer 8:30 am..... Jane Bennett

6:00 pm

Christmas Tree Lighting

Celebrant Robert Fain

Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122,
Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

Christmas Altar Flowers

Contribute to the altar flowers at Christmas by completing and returning the form below. Make your gifts payable to Good Shepherd marked as *Christmas Flowers*. Forms must be received by December 13 in order to appear in the order of service.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Enclosed Amount: _____

In honor of/memory of (circle one) _____

By: _____