

THE

Shepherd's Fold

DISCOVER 150 YEARS OF PURPOSE

January 12, 2019

All Things Become New

We are receding from Bethlehem and the celebration of the New Year as rapidly as a rocket shot into space leaves the pull of earth's gravity and seeks an orbit of its own. The carols and feasting and passing of Posada figures are, even now, fading into memory. Yes, 2019, is done and consigned to history.

Yet, each Christmas calls us to things both old and new. Our sojourns at the manger require us to stop a bit and to be drawn into an unlikely yet God-like, story. We ponder annually in the Yuletide season the mysterious, magical, and wondrous story of God's peaceful invasion of our place and time.

It is my opinion that Christmas is a much-needed foundation upon which to build the rest of the year. When all of you read this, we will be in the Feast of the Epiphany. This feast bids us leave the Babe and worship the God/Man known as Jesus. It is our destiny and duty to let the message of God's love "shine forth" in our lives, words, and actions. After all, no one who has ever visited the manger and has been touched by the light of the star and heard the angels sing, can ever be the same.

We leave Bethlehem bursting with a sense that something from God has been born inside our souls and hearts. Quite remarkably, our hope strengthens as our "hopes and dreams of all the years" are known and honored by the One who comes among us. You see, something old has become new again. That is not something we accomplish on our own and it is not within our power to make happen.

We seem to be just empty and darkened vessels until the light of God has been lit within us. Then, and only then, do we have reason for a hope of a share in glory and God's eternity. To us, creatures though we may be, God has given relationship and friendship and adoption into His family—now friends, that is truly Good News.

In Greek, the word for "new" has three options of choice and use. The most common in the New Testament is "kainos." It means new, not in the concept of time, but of nature. In effect, the old nature is put aside and a new nature is taken up. When someone puts aside an old nature and puts on a new one, then they have become "new" in heart, mind, and in quality of life.

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Adoption is a wonderful thing. January, a year ago, my wife and I rescued two dogs. They are half brother and sister. One is a corgi shepherd and the other is a border collie corgi . They were found running around Daniel Field, unchipped and no tags. As I think about it, the adoption was mutual. We not only adopted them, but they adopted us. Let me tell you, it was love at first sight. Regina, the shepherd mix, is brilliant and loyal, and at forty-five pounds loves to sit in your lap. Walter, the border collie mix, is nothing but all the love in the universe condensed into one animal. He loves to be loved. Nothing pleases him more than to sit next to you and just be touched. All in all, we and they, benefit from the connection.

Come and share with your adopted family of faith at Good Shepherd as we all seek to love God first and one another second. This is a good place to be.

Shine forth, O Light of God.

Andrew †



Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Begins January 15

Please join us for a new Women's Bible Study led by Bunny Williams and Lynn Prather. Join us for dinner in the Small Parish Hall at 6:00. We will meet promptly at 6:30 ending at 7:15. Child care will be provided.

Our study during Epiphany will be "Experiencing the Presence of God." No need to prepare ahead; our first meeting will be used for planning and introductions. For more information you may contact Lynn at lbprather@goodshepherd-augusta.org or Bunny at bunny@goodshepherd-augusta.org

Faith Seeking Understanding

January 26-27 | Reid Memorial Presbyterian

You are invited to Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church's Inaugural Faith Seeking Understanding Event on January 26-27, 2020. The speaker will be Dr. Sam Adams, professor of Bible at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Sam is an outstanding speaker and scholar, who deeply loves the Christ and the church. His topic is "*A Word in its Season - Effective Speech in the Bible and Our Fractured Political Moment.*" A timely topic for the church as it seeks to bear witness to the Word made flesh in this year ahead.

Sam will be preaching at 10:30 AM and speaking at 4:30 PM on Sunday, January 26th and then leading a conversation and bible study at 10 AM on Monday, January 27th. Please join us for this important conversation and study for Augusta and the church.

Sunday Morning Adult Formation

Young Adults and Couples: Led by Rob Wynn and others, this is not so much a class but a seminar facilitated by young adults and couples. Topics are designed to meet the needs of those married folk with children. Come and join in as people share what had and has not worked in their journey of raising children, handling finances, being Christian, and maintaining a healthy marital relationship.

Meets in room 302 at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

From Babe to Lord: The Jesus Story Unfolds

Led by Fr. Menger in the Conference Room. Sunday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

Children's Formation

Three Year Olds, Level I Catechesis

Room 305

Catechist: *Lucy Roth, Katrina Selby*

PreK-K, Level I Catechesis

Room 301

Catechist: *Alyson Getchell, Mary Margaret Adams, Katie Tracy, Linda Wier*

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade, Level II Catechesis

Room 304

Catechist: *Lydia Bliven Smyth, Ashley Pritchett, Nancy Thompson*

4th & 5th Grade, Weaving God's Promises

Room 306

Catechist: *Cayla Long, Walt Worsham*

St. Martin's Ministry

An organizational session for the newly-commissioned St. Martin's Ministry is scheduled in the church conference room on Saturday, February 1 at 10am.

Parishioners are invited to participate in a ministry designed specifically to support our military, veterans and their families. Please let the church office know if you are able to join the group on February 1. For further information, please contact Bob Young at mayoryoung@comcast.net.

WAGS: The Wonderful Adventures of St. Paul

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

January 15, From Zeal to Zealot: Pharisees and The Rest of the World

January 22, Bright Lights, Voices, and the Old Becomes New: The Damascus Road

January 29, A New Message Requires A New Mindset: Paul in Jerusalem, Arabia, and Galatia

February 5, Herding Chickens: Here Come the Gentiles! (Galatians, the Christian Declaration of Independence)

February 12, A Theology of the Absurd: Jesus Changes from "Good Teacher" to Lord of the Universe! (Colossians)

February 19, Dangerous Catalyst: Missionary, Theologian, and Writer of Scripture

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 12

8:00 am

Celebrant..... Lynn Prather
Preacher Joe Bowden
Organist..... Nick Lowery
Lay Readers Jim Price, Jack Speese
Lead Acolyte Thomas Galloway

9:00 am

Celebrant..... Andy Menger
Preacher Joe Bowden
Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Choir St. Gregory
Vergers Gene Rollins
Lay Readers Kelley Norris, Charlie Rollins
Ushers Alex Wier, Matthew Norris
Lead Acolyte Macie Wier

11:15 am

Celebrant & Preacher Joe Bowden
Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Choir Good Shepherd
Vergers Rob Dennis
Lay Readers Gerry Chambers, Lynn Smith
Ushers Alex Wier, Matthew Norris
Lead Acolyte Andrew Daniel

6:00 pm

Celebrant and Preacher Joe Bowden
Organist..... Wayne Lord
Lay Readers..... Anne Floyd, Faith Moore

All Services

Vestry..... John McCollum
Altar Guild Team II
Breakfast Brice Wright,
Matthew Norris, Alex Wier

Monday, January 13

Morning Prayer 8:00 am Eileen McCraney

Tuesday, January 14

Morning Prayer 8:00 am Mary Howard
Bible Study 10:00 am Andy Menger
Healing Service 11:00 am Lynn Prather

Wednesday, January 15

Holy Eucharist 7:00 am Lynn Prather
Morning Prayer 8:00 am Sandy Vantrease
Brandonwilde..... 4:00 pm Andy Menger

Thursday, January 16

Morning Prayer 8:30 am Allan Roy Andrews

Friday, January 17

Morning Prayer 8:30 am Danae Long

Saturday, January 18

Morning Prayer 8:30 am James Jones

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Homeless in Augusta

The Richmond County Continuum of Care for the Homeless will begin an annual Point-in-Time count of Augusta's homeless on January 21 and has asked for help from the community at large.

They are assembling 500 care packages for distribution during the 10 days of the count and *Good Shepherd has agreed to provide 500 packs of hot cocoa mix*. Parishioners who wish to help may drop the packs at the church office by close of business on January 17. Cash donations are also welcome – checks should be made to COGS and annotated for “homeless”.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer with the actual count can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c44abab2aa4f49-richmond>.