

THE Shepherd's Fold

May 21, 2023

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

ABANDONED?

I have never truly felt abandoned, but one time I was close. In early September, 1976, I kissed my girlfriend (Allison) goodbye, rode with my parents to Spartanburg, SC and in less than two hours my parents had checked me into Wofford College, helped me move into my dorm, and left. I did not know a soul at Wofford. I was as alone as I have ever been in my life as I sat on my new bed and saw my parents leave. Yet, despite my loneliness, I was confident that all would somehow be well because I knew that my parents and my schools had prepared me for life in college. At the moment, however, I would have loved to turn the clock back and be home.

The Feast of the Ascension, which occurred on Thursday the 18th, always brings me back to that first day at Wofford. For the disciples, it had been 40 days since Easter. They had gone through so many emotions, from the devastation of the crucifixion to the joy of the Easter resurrection. Jesus had been with them throughout the 40 days and now he leaves them for good as he ascends into heaven. They truly had to have some feelings of abandonment even though Jesus had promised to send them the Holy Spirit, whatever that would be. Add the fear of the Jewish authorities, and I am sure that they felt isolated and alone as Jesus disappeared from view. Yet, they did not despair and they stayed together until, 10 days later, the Holy Spirit descended upon them and empowered them for the mission of bringing the Good News of Jesus to the world, i.e. the Feast of Pentecost.

There are times that all of us feel at least a little bit abandoned. Something in life has not turned out as we hoped, and nobody seems to be willing to help or to care. Loneliness is reaching out its cold hand. Why isn't there somebody to be there for us? All of us can relate to some extent with these feelings. These are the times when we need to remember the very last words of Jesus to his disciples at the end of the Gospel according to Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28.20) In truth, we are never abandoned as long as we look to Jesus. Our friends and family may be missing. My parents may have left me in Spartanburg (albeit, for my own good). Jesus, however, is always present for us; we just have to open the eyes of our heart to see him.



SAVE THE DATE!

Cursillo #127 will be on September 7-10, 2023. Join us at our Diocesan Conference Center at Honey Creek.

LAST BREAKFAST!

Join us Sunday for our last home-cooked breakfast until the fall.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian formation will resume in the fall.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulation to EFM May 2023 graduates Andrew Austin and Robert Adair Blackwood. They received certificates from the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South after successfully completing four years of the Education for Ministry program.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATES



The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT), i.e. the survey, will be available through Sunday, June 4th. Please complete the survey by that time! A “Comment Box” will be available on the table in the foyer of the parish hall starting Sunday, May 14th. Please use this box to share with the committee anything you would like us to know that you could not include on the CAT. The box will be locked and checked weekly by Ashley and Neal. Also, please feel free to text, call, or email any comments or thoughts to either of the co-chairs of the Search Committee: Ashley Neal (ashneal@aol.com, 706-495-7538) and Neal Dickert (neal@dickertmediation.com, 706-394-2557).

1ST CENTURY AD MEETS 21ST CENTURY AD IN ART THROUGH THE ILLUMINATIONS OF THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

Join us May 24 from 3 pm - 5 pm at Brandonwilde in the Georgia Room. Tom Smyth and Jan Jackson will be presenting on the illuminations from The Saint John's bible. A reception will follow featuring 1st century foods served in 21st century style. To register or for more information, email Bobbie Ingenito: bobee8@gmail.com.

YOUTH NEWS

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

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

END OF YEAR FOAM PARTY

Join us to celebrate this past school year on May 21st from 5-7 pm for a Foam Party! Please contact Mary Grace to reserve a spot for carpooling.

VBS CREW SIGN-UP

We are still looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School! If you're looking for a fun way to volunteer this summer, contact Mary Grace. Open to 6th grade and up! June 5th-9th.

BROAD RIVER KAYAKING

TRIP

Save the date! Mark your calendars for June 17th for a day trip to kayak the Broad River near Athens. Limited space is available. Open to 6th-12th Grades. \$30 per person. Contact Mary Grace to reserve a spot!



Church of the Good Shepherd

Help us Tell Good Shepherd's Story

The Search Committee has moved forward with HolyCow! Consulting to help us in our pursuit of a Rector for Good Shepherd. We need the congregation to participate in the first step which is to conduct a congregational assessment. Please scan the QR code to take the survey.

**We need all church members to
participate for the best possible results!**

Join us for our

PARISH PICNIC

May 28, 11:00 am
1337 Flowing Wells Road



Wifesaver Chicken and drinks provided

- Bring a dish to share
- Kona Ice Sno-Cone truck
- Games, Facepainting, Kites, and more!
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Sunday, May 21, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
 PreacherTed Clarkson
 Organist Wayne Lord
 Lay ReadersCissy Bowden, Bobbie Ingenito

9:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
 PreacherTed Clarkson
 Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
 UshersJohn Manton, Drew Daniel
 Verger..... Stovall Walker
 Lay Readers Katie Tracy, Mitzi McCoy
 Acolytes.....Mary Dennis Trotter, Wiley Trotter,
 Bridges Trotter, Jack Manton, Hamp Helton

11:15 AM

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
 PreacherTed Clarkson
 Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
 UshersAshley Wilds, Jack Dugan
 Verger..... Mark Burgreen
 Lay ReadersHeather Wheeler, Andrew Austin
 Acolytes.. Jack Helton, Hamp Helton, Elle Benjamin,
 Raymond Benjamin, Darby Martin

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
 OrganistNick Lowery
 Lay Readers Yvonne Harrison, Jim Price

All Services

Altar GuildTeam V
 Breakfast Team II
 Vestry Person of the Day Ed Enoch

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SIGN UP TODAY!



READY, SET, MOVE!



FOLLOW JESUS HERE,
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

READY, SET, MOVE!

JUNE 5-9

Good Shepherd Episcopal, Reid Memorial, and Woodlawn United Methodist churches are again collaborating to present an in-person Vacation Bible School experience for children age 4 years through fifth grade. Get ready to follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere with Ready, Set, Move VBS! June 5-9, 9 am - 12 pm. Register at bit.ly/GSVBS. Last call to register!