

# THE Shepherd's Fold

November 26, 2023

Last Sunday after Pentecost: The Christ King

## NESTING

If you have ever had a baby or been around a woman who is moving closer to delivery, you are familiar with the term nesting. It is the uncontrollable urge to prepare your home for the arrival of your new little one. Nesting comes in many forms. For most women it involves cleaning and organizing. Deep cleaning the entire house. Taking everything out of cabinets and closets, then refolding and rearranging. In the nursery that awaits the arrival of its new little occupant, there might be painting. Or just the wiping down of the walls, crown molding, and baseboards. The rug lifted, the floors swept and mopped. The curtains dry cleaned or laundered. New linens on the crib and the bassinette, and a new stuffed animal for the crib. And all of the baby's tiny little outfits washed in Ivory Snow, pressed, and folded.

I imagine that Mary used those last few weeks making ready for her soon to be newborn. We, too, can use these last few weeks before Christmas as a time for nesting. A time for preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus. Actually, that is the purpose for the season of Advent. This first season of the church year, Advent, begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continues through Christmas Eve. The season of Advent is "a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ 'in power and glory.'" (Armentrout, An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, 3).

Use the season of Advent wisely this year. Dust off the walls of your heart by forgiving those with whom you have quarreled. Paint over old hurts so that they can be let go. Dust off your Bible and read the Gospel of Mark, the featured Gospel for the coming year. Spend time in prayer. Don't get so caught up in the "busyness" and distraction of "secular Christmas" that you ignore the purpose of Advent. The season of Advent begins on December 3 this year. Mark your calendar. Begin your nesting on that day so that you will be prepared for the birth of Christ the King.

keep on keeping on...

Bunny+

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has completed a 10 page Parish Profile and a 12 page Community Profile. These information packets are going to the Diocese to be posted for those interested in applying for our Rector position. Keep in mind that if you have someone that you think would be interested in applying or a candidate contacts you about applying, please refer them to the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM), specifically to Loren Lasch, Canon to the Ordinary. Please continue to pray for our church as we enter into this next phase of receiving applicants.

## VISIO DIVINA

Visio Divina will resume Wednesday nights, **November 1-29, at 6 pm**. This is an opportunity to experience more from the Scriptures and Illuminations in The Saint John's Bible. Each week we will look at a different Illumination and Scripture reading. Please join us for a meaningful way to move into the Advent Season. Visio Divina will not meet Thanksgiving week, **November 22nd**.

## YOUTH POINSETTIA DRIVE

We are now taking orders for poinsettias! You can pick up a form in the lobby or register online at **bit.ly/youthpoinsettias**. All payments and order forms are due Sunday, **November 26**. Please plan on picking up poinsettias on Sunday, **December 3rd**. All proceeds support the Good Shepherd Youth Ministry.

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

In the midst of the holiday season, there are those whose joy is diminished because of loss of a loved one and/or grief. Join us in the church on **December 4 at 6 pm** as we seek Light in the Darkness. This is a service of remembrance and joy. We express to God our sorrow, but we also lay claim to the hope given to us by our faith in Jesus. We encourage you to bring a small picture of a loved one to place on the altar prior to the service.

## ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us at 10:00 am, Sunday, **December 3rd**, in the Parish Hall to construct your Advent wreath. Families and individuals of all ages are welcome. Please bring clippings from your own or friends' evergreen bushes or trees and your own clippers. All other materials, foam wreath base, candle holders, and four Advent candles will be available for \$20. To purchase only the set of candles, the cost is \$5.

## GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK SALE

Our book, *On This Hill, Upon This Rock*, makes a great Christmas present! Pick up your copy in the church office or in the Parish Hall on Sundays. Cost is \$30. You can pay with check, cash or venmo @cogsaugusta.

## ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Hall. Please help a child in need this Christmas season. Please take a tag and return gifts to the church by **December 3rd**.

## ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us for a celebration of Lessons and Carols presented by the Good Shepherd and St. Gregory Choirs, December 17th at 6:30 pm.

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share, wine and beverages are provided. Scan the QR code to sign up.



## POSADA

The modern version of this old Mexican tradition uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph to travel from home to home, giving each participating family the chance to create their own celebration of making room for Jesus in their lives. Posada travel begins the first Sunday of Advent, **December 3**. Join the Posada tradition at Good Shepherd and sign up in the lobby.



## BROWN BAG LUNCH

Bring your own "brown bag lunch" to enjoy as we reflect on a different illumination and scripture from The Saint John's Bible each week.

**Tuesdays at 12 noon, September 19 - November 28.** Meets in the Conference Room.

## YOUTH NEWS

**Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for upcoming events.** For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at [mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org](mailto:mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org).

### ADVENT PAGEANT

The children of Good Shepherd will present the annual Advent Pageant on **December 17th** during the 9:00 am service with a reception at 10am. Please keep an eye out for sign-ups and a rehearsal schedule. Parents: Plan on bringing cookies or a pick-up snack for the reception.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth Christmas party will be on Wednesday, **December 20th**. Grades 6th-12th will gather from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come join us for Caroling, Dinner, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring a gift of \$20 in value or less.

### YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to another fun evening of fellowship this coming Sunday, **November 26th at 6:30 pm**. Dinner will be provided by Heather Wheeler. To sign up for meals, please head to the Shell Newsletter.

#### **5:00 - 6:00 pm: Rite-13:**

Meet in Youth Lounge (Come dressed for Gym Games)

#### **6:00 - 6:30 pm: Rite-13 & J2A:**

Gather for Dinner in Small Parish Hall

#### **6:30 - 8:30 pm: J2A:**

Meet in Youth Lounge (8:30pm dismissal due to Movie Night)

# Servers of the Shepherd

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**Sunday, November 26, 2023**

**8:00 AM**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist ..... Wayne Lord  
Lay Reader.....Camilla Davis

**9:00 am**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Verger..... Mark Pritchett  
Lay Readers .....Bob Nesbit, David Lentz  
Acolytes..... Frank Anderson, Mary Dennis Trotter  
Wiley Trotter, Bridges Trotter, Mallory Morgan,  
Caroline Doyle

**11:15 AM**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Verger..... Rob Dennis  
Lay Readers .....Anne Floyd, Yvonne Harrison  
Acolytes.....Fripp McDougal, Crawford McDougal  
Eliza McCutcheon, Caroline McCutcheon, Bo Cates

**6:00 pm**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Sonia Sullivan Clifton  
Organist .....Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers ..... Jim Price, Carleton Vaughn

**All Services**

Altar Guild ..... Team I  
Breakfast Ministry ..... Team IV  
Vestry Person of the Day ..... Ralph Kitchens

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*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 on November 26 at 6:00 pm.**

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## ***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 15 in order to appear in the order of service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of/memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_