

# THE Shepherd's Fold

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

## WILL OUR DOGS BE IN HEAVEN?

Our beloved Shih Tzu Lily Belle now awaits us at the Rainbow Bridge. After brightening our lives for 13 years and 8 months, Lily left us suddenly, probably a victim of this strange lung disease in dogs that has appeared in our area. Even though we knew Lily's best days were behind her, the gut-wrenching pain of her unexpected death was terrible. All of you who have experienced the loss of a beloved pet know exactly what I'm talking about! Comfort is hard to find.

I find comfort in my answer to a question posed to me by a child many decades ago, "Will my dog go to heaven?" My answer was then and is now, yes, yes, and yes. I'll tell you why I believe that Lily and all my dogs will be in heaven. The answer is in scripture.

In the first creation story (Genesis 1:24-25), we are told that God created all the animals before humans and declared it was good! Obviously from the very beginning animals had an important role in God's plan.

Secondly, God included the animals in the covenant he made with Noah. "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you." (Genesis 9:9-10).

Thirdly, in the new creation, "the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox." (Isaiah 11).

If you were to ask me to describe Lily in a single word, that word is love. When I consider the deep affection, love, and relationship I have had with Lily and all my dogs, I cannot believe that God would let that love disappear in death.

Paul says very clearly in Corinthians 13:8, "Love never ends!" So, if Lily was love and love never ends then Lily is in heaven waiting for me at the Rainbow Bridge.

Peace,



# Stewardship

*giving back to God*

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

We will conclude our Stewardship Campaign this Sunday. Following what we have heard from three of our parishioners these last Sundays, Fr. Ted will address the issue of Stewardship in his sermon, and pledge cards will be handed out. We hope that you have been prayerfully considering what God is calling you to give in 2024, and, to the extent possible, we hope that you will turn in your pledge card this Sunday on the way to the altar for communion.

in the lobby. Pick up one today!

## YOUTH POINSETTIA DRIVE

We still have poinsettias in the Parish Hall. Please plan on picking up your order today. All proceeds support the Good Shepherd Youth Ministry.

## MEN'S NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, **January 10**, beginning at 5:30pm. The menu will include Brats and beer, beans, sauerkraut, pie and tea. Please invite someone ! Text or email Robin at 706-736-4460 or email [robin.bailie@gmail.com](mailto:robin.bailie@gmail.com).

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

This year we have two devotionals available. The first one, Journey to Joy, is for families, and the focus of this devotional is joy. A joyful heart is possible despite what is happening around us because we know God is faithful and more powerful than our circumstances. With Bible-based reflections to ponder, prayers to pray, and simple faith-based actions, author Kate Wicker helps families to seek the joy of Jesus' birth throughout the Advent season. The second devotional, A Little Child Shall Lead Them, offers daily reflections on both Scripture and selected works of Henri J.M. Nouwen. With depth and clarity, popular author, blogger, and editor, Elizabeth Scalia, prayerfully unpacks how God's divine love is best revealed through Jesus. Both are available



• Happy Holidays •



# CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

**December 24** 8:00 am Advent IV Service  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Saint  
Gregory Choir  
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the  
Good Sheperd Choir

**December 25** 11:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist



## 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. The Nursery will be available.



SCAN ME

### *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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Servers of the Shepherd

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**8:00 AM**

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist ..... Wayne Lord  
Lay Reader .....David Lentz, Cissy Bowden

**9:00 am**

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Verger..... Lydia Bliven Smyth  
Lay Readers ..... Bob Nesbit, Lynn Tyson  
Acolytes..... Mary Dennis Trotter, Kate Tracy  
Rob Tracy, George Wynn

**11:15 AM**

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Verger..... Fred Palmer  
Lay Readers .....Andrew Austin, Jennie Haynes

**6:00 pm**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist .....Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers .....Jim Price, Faith Moore

**All Services**

Altar Guild ..... Team II  
Breakfast Ministry ..... Team VIII  
Vestry Person of the Day ..... Paul Trotter

## YOUTH NEWS

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

For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at [mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org](mailto:mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org).

### CHILDREN OF THE CRECHE

Be sure to sign up for Children of the Creche this Sunday in the Parish Hall. Sign-up list can be found on the large whiteboard.

### 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.

### YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to our last regular Youth Group gathering of the year this Sunday, December 10th! Be sure to save the date for the Youth Group Christmas Party on **December 20th**.

Details below. Youth Group schedule is as follows:

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

Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

#### **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 (Room 303)

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE ACOLYTES**

Please head to the Shell Newsletter to sign up for acolyting through Advent and On Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve Acolyte Rehearsal is at 4pm on **December 21st**. Thank you for acolyting!