

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

A FUTURE SO BRIGHT

Earlier this month, our vestry met in retreat at Kanuga. It was a productive time that fills me with great optimism for Good Shepherd. With me being a “short-timer,” I was anxious to see how this vestry would engage with the task of leading our congregation. Without any question, I see a very bright future.

Both wardens and ten of our twelve vestry members were present. The vestry represented the diversity at Good Shepherd. We had the older and the younger, lifetime Episcopalians and those new to the church, male and female, persons on different ends of the theological spectrum, persons of significantly different economic circumstances. Each person genuinely listened to and valued the contributions of others.

Our work sessions focused on three areas: the transition process for our new rector, an analysis of the state of the parish, and a business meeting focused on our financial expectations and budget for the coming year. Right from the start, all were engaged. Everyone expressed a genuinely positive outlook. There was great honesty in discussing some potentially difficult topics, which demonstrated an extraordinary amount of mutual trust.

As is the tradition at Good Shepherd's vestry retreats, there was ample time for socializing and team building. Even when there was a late night heated discussion about non-church issues (amazingly also not about politics!), the camaraderie was amazing. Our vestry is truly a cohesive team that has the good of the parish in mind rather than individual interests.

The transition to a new rector is a critical time in the life of a parish, especially when the prior rector had served for 37 years. Accordingly, the leadership of the vestry is needed more now than at any other time. I am convinced that this vestry is up to the task. The future of Good Shepherd is truly bright.

 Ted +

PARISH REGISTERS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lou, Lollie, Sullins, James, Bennett, and Marion Becton on the death of their father and grandfather, James Louis Becton.

On **January 26th**, the church office hours will be **8 am to 12 pm**.

WAGS RESUMES!

On **January 31**, we will focus on the role of light in Holy Scripture, and on February 7th, we will discuss the role of light in sacred art. Join us for these 'light' sessions that are both fun and informative!

Dinner: 6 pm, Program: 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm. Cost is \$6 (ages 11 +), \$4 children ages 4-10, children 3 and under eat free. The family max price is \$25.

Youth meet in the 3rd floor Youth Lounge after dinner. Children meet Jinny in the Parish Hall after dinner. Pk-2nd Grade will go to Room 209 and 3rd - 5th will go to Room 302.

Dinner will include Taco Bar with ground beef, tortillas,

cheese, peppers, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, salsa, etc. with Oreo pudding cake for dessert.



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee is delighted to report that we have received nine applications from candidates interested in our Rector position. We have started the process of reviewing each application. We expect to conduct our initial interviews with these candidates over the next few weeks. After those interviews are completed, it is our hope to narrow the field to a

small group of finalists. We will keep you informed as we move forward. Please continue to pray for our church and the Search Committee as we begin this exciting next phase of our search.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We have closed out the books for 2023, and our fiscal year ended with a surplus of \$24,971, even after we replaced the large flat roof on the parish house and all of the HVAC units on that roof. Thank you for your generosity! 20% of our budget supports outreach in Augusta and in the wider community, and 23% supports our program ministry, which includes Christian formation for youth and children. We are truly blessed at Good Shepherd. To read about how we use your gifts, go to: goodshepherd-augusta.org/give.

BACK TO THE BIBLE

For the monthly readings pick up a bookmark or navigate to our B2B page: goodshepherd-augusta.org/b2b.



Scan me

ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us for one of our Ash Wednesday services, **February 14**, 7:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 7:00 pm.

FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP

Due to February 11 being Super Bowl Sunday, we are rescheduling the Feast and Fellowship startup. Please join us Sunday, **March 3**, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to share fried chicken and any dish you would like to bring. Drinks will be provided. The purpose of Feast & Fellowship is to

get to know fellow parishioners in a casual, relaxed setting by sharing a simple meal and having fun. Couples and singles are welcome. Our purpose is to gather monthly in smaller groups and socialize over dinner. There are many ways to do this according to each group's preference. We will be discussing this in detail and asking for your suggestions. Please try to join us and enter to win a surprise door prize! If you can't come and want to be part of a group, email Jan Jackson infauxcus2001@gmail.com, Laura Rollins lhrollins@icloud.com, or Bobbie Ingenito bobeee8@gmail.com. Include your name(s), email, street address, and phone number. Looking forward to seeing you on March 3. Bring friends!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

On **January 15** the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd celebrated our 17th birthday. All of those years have been a blessing in my life and I hope a blessing to some of you. During those years we have stitched and delivered over 520 shawls and blankets. Many of you have been recipients, and I hope you know that in addition to hours of work many prayers and much love has gone into those gifts. We also make pocket

prayer shawls that may be mailed or given. The pocket shawls are available in the Church office. Anyone willing to knit or crochet shawls and blankets is welcome to join. We meet at 5pm on the first and third Mondays of each month. If you are interested or have need of a shawl please contact Carol Bennett at **706-840-4555** or email cbenn10347@aol.com.



COGS KICK-OFF 2024!

COGS had a great kick-off this past weekend with over 40 volunteers coming to Golden Harvest Food Bank and preparing over 1500 backpack meals for children in need in our community. Thanks for everyone's participation in this ministry. More volunteer opportunities to come on the third Saturday of every month!

SOLEMN COMMUNION

If you are interested in having your second or third grader participate in preparation for Solemn Communion, please plan to meet in the Chapel of the Resurrection during the Sunday School hour at 10am this Sunday, **January 28th**. Solemn Communion, a milestone between Baptism and Confirmation, focuses on a review of the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist and the introduction of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 28, 2024

8:00 am

Celebrant.....Ted Clarkson
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
Organist Wayne Lord
Lay ReaderBobbie Ingenito, Camilla Davis

9:00 am

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Lay ReadersJennie Haynes, David Lentz
Ushers Sean Roche, George Sancken
Acolytes..... Frank Anderson, Mary Dennis Trotter
Wiley Trotter, Bridges Trotter, Mallory Morgan

11:15 am

Celebrant.....Ted Clarkson
PreacherBunny Simon Williams
OrganistJim Nord
Lay Readers Yvonne Harrison, Andrew Austin
UshersAshley Wilds, Fred Palmer
Acolytes.....Frripp McDougal, Crawford McDougal
Eliza McCutcheon, Caroline McCutcheon, Bo Cates

6:00 pm

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

All Services

Altar Guild Team VI
Breakfast MinistryTeam I
Vestry Person of the DayRenee Austin

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group continues this Sunday, **January 28th!** We look forward to a fun evening of fellowship, games, and dinner! To sign up for meals, please head to the Shell Newsletter. We are still looking for volunteers for **3/17, 4/28, and 5/5.**

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 - 7:30 PM: J2A:

Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

A new acolyte schedule has been

released! Check the Shell Newsletter and save your assigned dates. The new schedule runs from now until the end of March.

SAVE THE DATE:

February 2-4: Ski Trip

February 11: Super Bowl Party

March 9: Overnight Lock-In

