

THE Shepherd's Fold

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, AND WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.

As we find ourselves on the cusp of the start of school, Episcopal Day School is celebrating a milestone. For 80 years, we have been building foundations for life— foundations of faith, of character, of learning, of service, of leadership. Even today, we remain connected to our institutional history and founding mission to help children learn to love God and to love and serve others.

As the largest mission of the Church of the Good Shepherd, we are steadfast in our commitment to live up to that grounding as a faith-filled community of care. As a ministry founded to serve military families fulfilling their patriotic duties, we continue to offer significant discounts to military families and work to ensure our students understand and appreciate what it means to be a good citizen. As an institution that led the way in building bridges among diverse communities, we remain unyielding in our efforts to open doors of opportunity and show the love of God to all who join us. That is our heritage, of which we are proud and grateful.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 reminds us, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” God knew the plans he had for Episcopal Day School 80 years ago. Plans to prosper. Plans to give hope and a future. When you look at EDS’ legacy of service to the families of the CSRA and the faithful commitment of so many to the School’s mission, you cannot help but see the blessings of God. That reflection should bring hope and encouragement to us. It should spark hearts full of thanksgiving that are inspired to pray. God has done what he promised. We should not be surprised.

As we honor the proud history of Episcopal Day School and celebrate these past 80 years, we also want to take time to appreciate our current blessings. We are poised to open the school year with over 380 students, a 10% increase over last

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year and the largest increase in opening enrollment in the last twenty years. This is the second year in a row of a record-setting increase. The excitement is palpable and is a function of efforts to strengthen faculty, curriculum, and facilities.

In the midst of the retirements of beloved faculty members over the past several years, we have placed particular emphasis on attracting, retaining, and developing our faculty. Your support of our Annual Fund along with the commitment of the Board has ensured we have the resources to establish the next generation of transformative teachers for our students. Great teachers stand at the intersection of many of those foundations we seek to establish.

We have also been energized by the introduction of several new curricular initiatives over the past two years— in math, in Language Arts, in Science, and in the Arts. Coupled with the integration of nature-based learning for all students and the expansion of the Nature School (now to 1st grade and serving nearly 50 students), EDS offers a unique and powerful set of experiences to our students (and summer campers!). These research-based programs and approaches have us well-positioned to continue our academic leadership in the region as we lay those foundations for learning in the years to come.

And finally, we have been able to invest over \$2.1 million in our Walton Way facilities over the last two years without using a single dollar of tuition revenue. The updates - from new roofs to a renovated library to some fresh painting and carpet to a new Makerspace opening this fall - have made a difference and added to the excitement that continues to build. We want our facilities to support our mission but also to reflect the quality of what happens inside them. We are so pleased with the progress even with much work still ahead of us.

In all these efforts, we stand on the work of those who have come before us. We feel the call to steward all we have been given and what has been established and cultivated. At the same time, we (the School community and the Parish) are called to carry that legacy forward for another 80 years. As I once heard shared in a commencement speech, “We need to practice excellence for those who will come after us.” God knows the plans He has for us and Episcopal Day School. He has blessed the faithful leadership, vision, and effort of those who have come before us. Let us answer the call to build on that legacy for the school, for the families we serve, and for the impact on the community.

In His Service,

David B. Perkinson

Head of School

PARISH REGISTER

Evelyn Stallings of Chapel Hill, NC passed away, July 31, 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Julia Key.

COGS UPDATE!

Our next COGS outreach opportunity will be on **August 17th** from 10:00am until 12:00pm with the Turn Back the Block ministry. This ministry is revitalizing Harrisburg one block at a time and through volunteers as well as donations is creating much needed affordable home ownership opportunities for persons by cleaning up abandoned homes and vacant lots.

We will meet at the Turn Back the Block office of Ashley Brown 1924 Battle Row for orientation

with coffee, doughnuts, and fruit as well as parking across the street. Please e-mail Lynn Tyson lytson517@gmail.com or call/text at **706-833-7415** to volunteer. Children are welcome to come if they come with and are supervised by parents. What a great opportunity to spread Good Shepherd's mission in the community. More to come on T-Shirts!

WEDNESDAYS AT GOOD SHEPHERD (WAGS)

We are gearing up for a wonderful season of WAGS this fall. If you would like to join a cooking team please email maryashthonmills@gmail.com or blake.leverett@gmail.com.

Joining a cooking team is an excellent way to get involved! We are currently seeking new teams to round out the schedule.

EfM

Are you still considering participating in the Education for Ministry program at Good Shepherd? Now is the time to decide! The final week of registration is this week. First meeting is on Thursday, August 29, at 6:30 pm. Please contact Tom Smyth at tom.smyth@me.com or **706-231-1720** for information.

EXPERIENCE CURSILLO AT HONEY CREEK

Cursillo #129. Want to experience a deeper dive into what following Jesus is like for those of us in the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement? An upcoming retreat at Honey Creek will offer you a chance to reflect on the life of faith with other Episcopalians from Central and South Georgia. Cursillo (pronounced 'kur-see-yo') begins **Thursday, September 19th** and ends the following Sunday evening on **September 22nd**. During those three days the participants engage in listening to talks given by priests and lay people, and small table discussions, while worshipping and playing together. The next Cursillo, #129, will be held at Honey Creek.

PARKING SUNDAY EVENING

Please plan to arrive a little early Sunday evening, **August 11**. EDS is having an event that impacts the parking lot for the 6 pm service.

HELP WITH CHURCH EVENTS

If you would be interested in volunteering to help with church events like: picnics, Lessons and Carols, receptions, etc. Please contact Emily at emily@cogsaugusta.org.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, August 11, 2024

8:00 AM

Celebrant..... Bunny Simon William
 Preacher..... Joe Bowden
 Organist..... Wayne Lord
 Lay Readers..... Bobbie Ingenito, Lynn Tyson

10:00 AM

Celebrant..... Bunny Simon Williams
 Preacher..... Joe Bowden
 Organist & Choirmasters..... Jim Nord
 Lay Readers..... Andrew Austin, Kelley Norris
 Verger..... Jerry Woods

6:00 PM

Celebrant & Preacher..... Sonia Sullivan Clifton
 Organist..... Nick Lowery
 Lay Readers..... Jennie Haynes, David Lentz

All Services

Altar Guild..... Team III
 Vestry Person of the Day..... Renee Austin

Save **3** Lives with **1** Donation!

BLOOD DRIVE

Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

ALL DONORS WILL RECEIVE THE LIMITED-EDITION COOLER TOTE AFTER DONATING!

SKIP THE LINE!
 SCAN OUR QUICK PASS TO ANSWER SCREENING QUESTIONS THE MORNING OF THE DRIVE. PHOTO ID REQUIRED.

Shepard Community Blood Center
 @shepardblood

Fall Kickoff and Backpack Blessing

We will bless backpacks at the 10 am service, **August 18**, as we collect school supplies for Monte Sano Elementary. After the 10 am service, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. On the church lawn, we will have snow cones and games for all ages!



Senior Recital

MARY BRYSON WRIGHT

AUGUST 11 2024
 3 O'CLOCK
 CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
 IN THE PARISH HALL
 2230 WALTON WAY
 AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

FROM THE STUDIO OF
Patti Myers
 ACCOMPANIMENT BY
James Nord
 WITH
Bonnie Wright
Charlette Vaughn

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Meeting a practical need in our community

SUNDAY

August 11th