

THE Shepherd's Fold

February 2, 2025

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the hurricane and our first Sunday was only four months ago. There has been a lot of life lived and ministry faithfully enacted during that time period. As we have prayed together, learned together, served together, and walked together in mission and ministry, I have witnessed something amazing. In preparation for our big parish weekend, I want to share this observation with you because I have a feeling that you've seen it too:

Friends, God is doing something mighty in our midst. There is an energy and enthusiasm at church right now which I believe is the Holy Spirit breathing new life into our parish. Children, women, and men are stepping up in leadership and stepping out in faith as they respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting. Our worship has become increasingly joyful every Sunday as we are formed in song, scripture, and sacrament. There are significant signs of growth on every level: spiritual, numerical, and financial.

Friends, God is doing something mighty in our midst. I am reminded of the many stories in Scripture when God was working in the midst of the people. The question was never about whether or not God would be at work – it was a given that God was active and present among his people. Rather, the question was whether or not the people would expect God's work, respond to God's work, and join God in that work.

Friends, God is doing something mighty in our midst. It is obvious and overt, palpable and powerful, tangible and thriving. Our holy invitation as a local outpost of the Kingdom is to become a people of expectation who respond to God's work by joining him in mission and ministry. May we continue to joyfully, expectantly, and faithfully say "yes" to our great God.

Friends, God is doing something mighty in our midst.

Peace,

Porter+

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Your requested offertory envelopes are now available for you to pick up in the Parish Hall. Please let the church office know if you want to receive an offering envelope for this year.

RECTOR'S FORUM

We're getting the band back together! With Cynthia+ and Ellis+ in town for the big weekend, we are going to have another edition of "Rectors' Forum" (notice the apostrophe) in between the services on Sunday morning. Join us as we finish our engagement with Mark Clavier's "Ten Theses for Church Renewal."

WAGS RETURNS

WAGS is returning! Join us on **February 5** for Wednesdays at Good Shepherd (WAGS). We will be meeting every Wednesday in February and our theme for the month is "Feast: An Exploration of Theology and Food." Dinner begins at 6:00pm and for our first week we have lasagna, salad, and dessert! \$6 (ages 11+), \$4 children ages 4-10, children 3 and under eat free. The family max price is \$25. To register head over to our website

LAST CALL: AN EVENING FOR NEW MEMBERS

It's not too late to sign up for our Join us "Evening for New Members." Dinner begins at 6:00pm and then we will have a short teaching which will explore our vision, a bit about our Anglican heritage and the Episcopal church, and information about how to join us in mission and ministry. To register head over to our website. Childcare will be provided.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

We are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Cynthia Brust to Good Shepherd this weekend for her class, *Every Member a Minister*. Cynthia+ will help us explore the "other side of yes," reminding us that each of us is a minister. The workshop will be held in the Parish Hall from 9:00am - 2:00pm and childcare will be available (in the Good Shepherd nursery). The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person which will cover the cost of our lunch..

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

Join us at 5:00pm on Saturday, **February 1** for Fr. Porter's Celebration of New Ministry. This is an exciting time in the life of the parish as this special liturgy formally marks the beginning of our shared ministry as rector and congregation. This service is a joyous occasion to affirm our mission, offer our prayers, and dedicate ourselves anew to God's work in our community. The celebration includes the presentation of symbolic gifts that reflect the responsibilities of ministry and our shared commitment to proclaim the Gospel, nurture discipleship, and celebrate the sacraments. Following the

service we will have a reception in the Parish Hall.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

For centuries the Church has set aside the Feast of the Epiphany as a day for house blessings and “chalking of the doors.” Epiphany house blessings take place at the front door with the priest praying a prayer of blessing and marking the door frame with a special inscription: 20 + C + M + B + 25

The COGS clergy are available for house blessings throughout the Epiphany Season (January 6 - March 4). This special liturgy lasts only a few minutes and is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join you. To schedule a house blessing, please email Rebecca Taylor (rebeccaebtaylor@gmail.com).

EPIPHANY READING GROUP

This Advent we participated in Bishop Logue’s diocesan reading group. It was such a hit that we’ve decided to keep the fun going on our own this Epiphany. Our Epiphany book selection is *Epiphany: The Season of Glory* by Fleming Rutledge which is part of the *Fullness of Time* series by IVP. In this small book, Rutledge unlocks new insight into this deeply important liturgical season. Please join us for our discussion of the book on Sunday, **February 9** at 4:30pm in the Conference Room. The Book Tavern has copies available for us.

COGS

Thanks to everyone for their support of our COGS outreach ministries. Our next COGS outreach will be returning to work with Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries Food Pantry whose mission is

to “feed the hungry in our community.” Our group will be ministering on **February 15** from 8:30-11:30am.

Those participating should come to the St. John UMC parking Lot (736 Greene Street) between 8:00-8:30am where the DCCM participants will be setting up the food distribution. Participants should plan on parking on 8th St. or across the street on Telfair since the parking lot is used for the drive through and walk-up distributions. The participants will be at the various stations with the food and place it in the client’s trunk as they drive up. They have a separate area for the walking clients. A “personal shopper” takes their cart and goes to get their food. The food distribution generally occurs between 9:00-11:00am. Those participating in this ministry must be at least twelve years of age and if they are under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please e-mail Lynn Tyson at lytson517@gmail.com if you would like to participate or call or text at **706-833-7415**. I will have name tags for our COGS participants. They report that donations of granola bars or ready to eat items such as peanut butter crackers for snack bags for the homeless are always appreciated. DCCM reports that this ministry is doing what Christ has asked us to do: “Feed his sheep.”



Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, February 2, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Kelley Norris, Lynn Tyson
Ushers Jonathan Adams, Bill Hollingsworth

11:00 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Bob Nesbit, Yvonne Harrison
Verger..... Fred Palmer
Ushers James Jones, Ashley Wilds

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Mark Dickens
Lay Readers Anne Floyd, Jim Price

All Services

Altar Guild Team IV
Breakfast Ministry Team VII
Vestry Person of the Day Matt Tracy

EDS IS LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Episcopal Day School is looking for part-time substitute teachers. If you want to work with children, set your own schedule, and, as a bonus, get paid, this is a great opportunity for you! Training is required, but we will pay you to complete the training. If this has you excited about your future as a substitute teacher at Episcopal Day School, please contact Mrs. Nina Tomlin, Assistant to the Division Heads, at ntomlin@edsaugusta.com or call the main office at **(706) 733-1192**. We can't wait to hear from you!

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, February 2nd**. Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to join us for a fun evening of dinner and fellowship! Youth Group schedule is as follows:

- 5:00 - 6:00 pm: Rite-13: Meet in Youth Lounge
- 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 (Pilgrimage Planning)

YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP:

Registrations are due by **Monday, February 3rd!** Students are invited to join us for the annual ski trip to App Ski Mountain in Boone, NC, from February 21st-23rd. To reserve your spot, please email Mary Grace, and she will send you the registration link and details.