

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 12, 2025

The First Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends,

This weekend marks another turning point in the liturgical year as we conclude. As you all know, Jim Nord retired in late December after 44 years of distinguished service as our Organist and Choirmaster. Over the last two Sundays, we have welcomed Mark Dickens and Dr. Dan Hardin to the bench to play during our morning services. I am happy to announce that each of them has agreed to continue playing at Good Shepherd while our search for a Director of Music Ministries is underway. We are sharing some brief biographical information about Mark and Dan below, and we know you will join us in giving them a warm welcome.

Dr. Dan Hardin began playing the organ in 1964. He recently served as the Dean of the Miami Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, as the music librarian for Florida International University from 2000 to 2019, and as the organist at two parishes in Miami. Dan comes to us with a wealth of experience and he will be playing at the 8:30am and 11:00am services through the end of March.

Mark Dickens is an Augusta native and has served local churches for the last 22 years. Mark and his wife have two daughters and are marking 13 years of marriage this year. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from the University of South Carolina. Mark will be playing at the 6:00pm service during our search process.

Please join me in welcoming Dan and Mark to Good Shepherd and in giving thanks as they share their talents and experience with us!

Peace,

Porter+

FORMATION HOUR

Our Formation offerings for all ages will resume this Sunday at 9:45am between the two services.

SAVE THE DATE: AN EVENING FOR NEW MEMBERS

On Friday, January 31 we will be hosting an evening for our new members and for those who are interested in joining the parish. Our evening will begin with dinner 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. Childcare will be provided. We are so glad you're at Good Shepherd and look forward to sharing this special evening with you! Please RSVP on our website.

SAVE THE DATE: SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

We humans inherently seek identity and purpose, asking questions like: *Who am I? Why am I here? What is my role?* Paul offers a powerful answer in his letter to the Ephesians saying we were “created for good works.” Our faith anchors our identity and purpose in Christ, and by virtue of our baptismal covenant, each of us is called to mission and ministry. Finding one's role in the Kingdom of God offers unparalleled fulfillment. We are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Cynthia Brust to Good Shepherd on Saturday, February 1, as she helps us explore the “other side of yes,” reminding us that each of us is a minister.

The workshop will be held at EDS from 9:00am - 2:00pm and childcare will be available. The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person which will cover the cost of our lunch. To sign up, please click [this here](#).



Cynthia Brust is rector of Christ Episcopal Church (CEC) in Suntree-Viera. After serving as an

Episcopal lay leader for three decades, Cynthia transitioned into ordained ministry in 2010. Throughout her ministry, she has been guided by a desire to ignite a passion for Kingdom living in word and deed as well as calling, equipping, and sending out disciples as walking sacraments engaging Christ's call to incarnational ministry. She finds great joy in “equipping the saints for the works of ministry.”

In addition to her congregational ministry experience, Cynthia has thirty-five years of experience in a broad range of communications, public relations, and advocacy in church-related, governmental, corporate, and political arenas, including serving as a Congressional Press Secretary. She serves on the Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Central Florida and just completed a three year term on the diocesan board. She has also served on numerous diocesan task forces, is on the faculty for the diocesan Institute of Christian Studies, and has led vestry and vision planning retreats for a number of churches focusing on revitalization and congregational development. Cynthia is married to the Rev. Canon Ellis E. Brust, also an Episcopal priest serving as Rector of St. Andrew's Ft. Pierce. The couple has

two adult children and three grandsons, but her real claim to fame is that she is Fr. Porter's beloved mother-in-law.

SAVE THE DATE: CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

On Saturday, February 1, Bishop Logue will be here 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—such as a Bible, a vessel of water, and bread and wine—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.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the service which will begin at 5:00pm.

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, March 9 at 4:30pm in the Conference Room. The Book Tavern has copies available for us.

STEWARDSHIP

It is not too late to submit your pledge for 2025 online, by return mail, or on Sunday. Pledge cards help us have an accurate picture of our financial landscape during the budget season and allow us to plan for our ongoing mission and ministry. If you have not already turned in a pledge card, we encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so!

COGS

Join us this **Saturday, January 11th**, at Golden Harvest (3310 Commerce Dr, Augusta, GA 30909) from 1:00-4:00pm packing backpack meals and senior boxes for those with food insecurity in our community. Volunteers must be 8 years or older to attend with parents and everyone needs to wear closed toe shoes. If you would like to participate please let Lynn Tyson know (ltyson517@gmail.com).

A CHRISTMAS THANK-YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped with greening the church, creating a beautiful Christmastide: Carol Bennett and Phyllis Strozier for organizing the team, Montie Knapp for spectacular altar flowers, Lucy Smith & Family for hanging the grand wreath, Amy & Doug Nesbit for smilax, Mary Lib Connell, Camille Price, Andrea

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersLynn Tyson, Kelley Norris
Verger.....Ed Enoch
Ushers Matthew Norris, Sean Roche

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Mark Dickens
Lay ReadersJim Price, Anne Floyd

All Services

Altar GuildTeam III
Breakfast MinistryTeam VII
Vestry Person of the DayGilchrist Phillips

11:00 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Lynn Smith, Yvonne Harrison
Verger..... Mark Burgreen
Ushers Jack Dugan, Mark Pritchett

Adams, Bob Nesbit, Linda Wier, Carol Palmer, Sharon Barsh, Courtney Wier, Kelley Norris, Jan Jackson, Mary Ashton Mills, Susie Cates, Colden & Mary Waller, Bill Bennett and Nathaniel Simmons. Also thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Altar Flowers.

EDS FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER AND BOOK FAIR

Please join us for the EDS Family Night Supper (\$10/plate and \$40 Family max) and Book Fair. There will be an 8th grade girls vs. moms basketball game from 5:30-6:00 P.M. and an 8th grade boys vs. dads basketball game from 6:15-6:45 P.M. Concessions will be open during the games for candy and treats ONLY. The Book Fair will be open from 5:00-6:30 P.M. If there is a special book Porter, Joe, Bunny, Mary Grace, or other Sunday School classes are reading for the semester we may be able to get Scholastic to source it so it is available during the book fair, just let us know. To sign up please contact Liz Trotter at ketrotter@gmail.com

B2B KING'S CAKE EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Enjoy pictures from our Monday evening B2B class, Epiphany celebration. We had a French Kings Cake, une Galette des Rois. Roddy Kitchens crowned for finding the fava bean - la fève.



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 resumes this **Sunday, January 12th**, with an evening at Top Golf from 5:30-7:30pm! We will gather for two hours of fun, food, and golf! Please plan for drop-off and pick-up at 437 Topgolf Way and bring \$30 cash if you can contribute. Space is limited so please text Mary Grace if you plan on attending.