

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 19, 2025

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends,

One of the unique challenges of being new to a city is learning how to navigate your way around from point A to point B. That's a normal thing...but the task becomes all the harder when you move to a city and 36 hours later a hurricane up-ends everything! In the earliest weeks after the storm our routes were diverted and re-directed over and over again due to power lines, debris trucks, and more. It was common to see *Detour* signs everywhere.

Signs are all around us.

Every day we see signs while we're driving. Some tell us what to do (Stop), others tell us where we are (4th Street), and still others point beyond themselves to our destination. Signs are important because they can provide a message of warning or progress, they point out where we've been or where we are going (whether we want to or not). A wedding ring is a sign and symbol of marriage, but it does not signify the full meaning of marriage. There is the sign...and then there is the meaning of the sign...

This Sunday we are discussing the first of Jesus' *signs* in John's Gospel. There is no Greek word equivalent to our English use of the word *miracle* and John opts to use the word meaning sign (*semeia*). Such is John's preference that the first half of his Gospel is devoted to the signs performed by Jesus in Galilee and it is referred to by scholars as "The Book of Signs." Our task on Sunday will be to determine *what* the sign of the wedding at Cana is pointing to and why it matters. I invite you to begin reading through John 2:1-11 as you prepare to look at the passage with us on Sunday morning.

Peace,

Porter+

NO RECTOR'S FORMATION

Rector's Forum will not be meeting this Sunday. All of our other adult formation and children's formation classes will be meeting in their usual locations at 9:45am on Sunday morning.

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. Sign up, on our website.



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. If you have not already turned in a pledge card, we encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so!

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.

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Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersCamillia Davis, Bobbie Ingenito
Verger.....Kathleen Bailie
UshersMatt Tracy, Jonathan Adams

11:00 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersAndrew Austin, Yvonne Harrison
Verger..... Mark Burgreen
Ushers Trey Hargrove, Lewis Baird

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Mark Dickens
Lay ReadersJennie Haynes, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar GuildTeam III
Breakfast Ministry Team II
Vestry Person of the DayBeth McCutcheon

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 ltyson517@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."

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, January 19th.

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: Dust off those skis and mark your calendars!

We're headed to App Ski Mountain in Boone, NC. from February 21st-23rd. Registration details will be sent to parents directly from Mary Grace. For questions in the meantime, please reach out.