

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 26, 2025

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends,

As you may recall, William Shatner went to space a few years ago. His 11-minute ride and return to earth was captured by media outlets for the world to see. I confess I let the coverage interrupt my workday as I was an excited watcher - who doesn't want to see Captain Kirk in zero-gravity?!

For me, the most remarkable part of the experience was listening to Shatner describe the journey once he landed. Shatner was moved to tears as he waxed eloquent about the beautiful meaning of life and the proximity of death. As Shatner sought words, phrases, and pictures to capture his life-changing experience it occurred to me that he was attempting to describe the ineffable.

The most poignant remark that he made was this, "I hope I never recover from this. I hope that I can maintain what I feel now. I don't want to lose it." I found myself thinking about those profoundly palpable moments when I have encountered the Living God and have been forever changed. Friends, it is impossible to experience God's glory and remain the same. Shatner was changed by the beauty of creation pointing to the Creator (whether he knew it or not), which begs the question for us: how have you been changed?

As a church and as individual Christians, we are called to be transformed daily, from the inside out, as we serve and praise our God. We have recognized the Risen Lord through mission, we have encountered the Holy Spirit through ministry, we have experienced Almighty God in his creation and through our worship. I hope that we never recover from those experiences. I pray that we are forever changed from our encounters with God. I pray that we invite others to share in our life-changing moments.

Peace,

Denny Crane...I mean Captain Kirk...

I mean, 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 RESUMES

Rector's Forum will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:45am this Sunday. All other formation offerings will continue in their normal locations.

JOIN THE ST. GREGORY CHOIR

We are excited to share that the St. Gregory Choir will continue singing at the 8:30am service. We will be holding an informational meeting and practice this **Sunday, January 26th from 4:30-5:00pm in the choir loft.** This kick off event is open to any child 8 years old and up at Good Shepherd who is interested in singing. We will discuss the important role of the choir, review the order of service, and show choristers how to find hymns in the hymnal. We will make sure every member has a robe that fits and a cubby with materials. Join us as we get ready for the second half of the program year! Many thanks to Coles Doyle for organizing a team of choir parents to help in the transition as we seek a new Director of Music Ministries.

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!

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.



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, February 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!

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 26, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers David Lentz, Bob Nesbit
Verger..... Zim Trulock
Ushers Matt Matson, John Manton

11:00 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Lynn Smith, Jet Taylor
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Ushers Alex Wier, Peter Martinez

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Mark Dickens
Lay Readers Faith Moore, Jim Price

All Services

Altar Guild Team IV
Breakfast Ministry Team III
Vestry Person of the Day Renee Austin

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 **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.”

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 SKATING EVENING: This Sunday for Youth Group, we will gather from 4:30-6:30pm at Skateland of Augusta for a fun evening of roller skating with other Episcopal Churches in the CSRA. Students in grades 6th-12th are encouraged to join us! Carpooling is available from Good Shepherd at 4:15pm. Please RSVP to Mary Grace Wynn by email or text.

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.