

THE Shepherd's Fold

February 16, 2025

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

FAITH IS ACTUALLY QUITE EASY

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:5

The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."¹

If the apostles had asked me to help them increase their faith, I would have recommended that they go to the University of Georgia and study science. From there they should go to the Medical College of Georgia and study medicine. After that a General Surgical residency followed by a career in academic surgery teaching and doing clinical research.

That course of study may take more time that they would be willing to commit, but it would be worth it if increasing their faith was their goal or they might say that learning all about science might have the reverse effect and actually decrease their faith. After all, didn't the "Age of Enlightenment" explain the mysteries of the universe? To that question I must answer that science enforces the mystery since science can only explain the how but not the why.

For six decades in my career as surgeon, teacher and researcher, God's wondrous creation kept me in a perpetual state of awe. As I have explored the seemingly unlimited macrocosm of galaxies and black holes to the seemingly unlimited microcosm of cell, molecules, atoms, quarks and strings to the seemingly unlimited resiliency of life I can come to only one conclusion, there is a force of perfect energy, perfect intelligence and perfect love that created everything and set it into motion. That being is called God.

The Genesis stories tell how God made everything and called it good. All of creation reflects God. God is reflected in us through our faith in the mystery of the one who is the I Am.

Now, wasn't that easy?

Peace,

Joe+

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will close at noon on Friday and will remain closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day. We will re-open at 8:00am on Tuesday, February 18.

WAGS

WAGS is back! Join us every Wednesday in February for "**Feast: A Theological Exploration of Food.**" Food is more than sustenance—it is a gift from God that nourishes both body and soul. Feast: An Exploration of Food and Theology will explore the sacred significance of food in Scripture and our faith. Each week, we'll reflect on a central biblical theme: Bread, as a symbol of God's provision and presence; Wine, representing joy, covenant, and transformation; and Honey, a sign of God's abundant blessings and the sweetness of His Word. We'll end by looking at the feasts in Scripture and talking about what they mean for our common life in Christ! Join us as we discover how God meets us at the table and calls us into deeper communion with him and one another.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

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**).

COGS

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."



SHROVE TUESDAY

Mark your calendars for the Shrove Tuesday celebration at Good Shepherd on **March 4th** at 6pm! There will be a full dinner, silent auction, dessert bar, and more. All proceeds benefit the 2025 Youth Pilgrimage to Greece!

We are collecting items for this auction. Examples include artwork, event tickets, a weekend stay at a vacation home, antiques, homemade food, tours and passes, golfing, dining certificates, services, and lessons. If you wish to donate items, please contact Mary Grace Wynn or Kristen Weston.

WILD GAME DINNER

The EDS Association is excited to announce that the Wild Game Dinner will be held Saturday, **March 15**, at 6:00 P.M. at Episcopal Day School's Walton Way Campus. This much anticipated event is one of the EDS Association's most successful fundraisers. Proceeds are used to purchase items on the faculty "wish list" and provide curriculum support,

enhancing our student and faculty experiences. This year, proceeds will be used for renovating and updating the teachers' workroom, as well as installing a permanent sound system in the gym to enhance our athletic events, chapel services, and school performances. The EDS Association cannot do it without your support, and are incredibly grateful for parents, grandparents, and local businesses.

The event will feature unlimited food and drinks, with both a silent and live art auction that feature local artists who have collaborated with each grade for a one of a kind piece of art! Dress is casual. **(Please note, this event is for ages 21 and up!)**

Wild Game Dinner Ticket

\$75 : This ticket provides access to the Wild Game Dinner at 6:00 P.M. Enjoy an open bar, delicious food, and the silent and live auctions.

VIP Ticket \$125: This premium ticket will allow an hour of early access to the Wild Game Dinner with open bar, food, and premium tastings beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Head over to the EDS website for more details.

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.

PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND

Due to the holiday weekend, we will not be gathering for Youth Group nor Children & Student Christian Formation.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, February 16, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersLynn Tyson, Bobbie Ingenito
Verger.....Stovall Walker
UshersMike Leverett, Ed Enoch

11:00 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Yvonne Harrison, Jet Taylor
Verger.....Choppy Woodward
Ushers Drew Daniel, Glen Owen

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersFaith Moore, Anne Floyd

All Services

Altar GuildTeam V
Breakfast MinistryTeam V
Vestry Person of the Day Deke Copenhaver

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!



LIVE IT OUT
DISCOVER HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

SAVE THE DATE!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Church of the Good Shepherd
DATE: June 2 - 6, 2025
Time: 9:30 - 12:00

The graphic features a vibrant green and yellow background with wavy patterns. On the left, there are cartoon characters: a yellow character with a red backpack and a yellow character with a red flag that says 'CAMP'. The text 'LIVE IT OUT' is in large, stylized letters. Below it, the text 'DISCOVER HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS' is written. On the right, the event details are listed in bold black text.

