

THE Shepherd's Fold

March 2, 2025

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends,

This Sunday marks yet another turning point in our church year as we bring Epiphanytide to a close and prepare to enter into Lent. Sitting at the center of that transition is the Transfiguration of Jesus. Always occupying the final Sunday after Epiphany, the Transfiguration is the climax and crescendo of Epiphanytide as we see Jesus revealed in dazzling brilliance and radiant glory. Even though the church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration annually on August 6, we are reminded that the road down the mountain leads directly to the cross.

The Sundays in Epiphanytide have been bookended by the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan by John and the Transfiguration. This is intentional. The voice of the Father represents a common thread in these two high points of the season. At Jesus' baptism, the Father says, "This is my son, my beloved, with him I am well pleased." There is a shift in the Father's words when he speaks to Jesus atop the mountain, "This is my son, my beloved, listen to him."

Listen to him about what? I'm so glad you asked!

The Son has always enjoyed the pleasure and love of the Father, but now the focus is now singularly set on the cross to come, on the road to Calvary, on the body broken and the blood poured out. When Jesus appeared between Moses and Elijah and the Big Three (Peter, James, and John) beheld them in their glory, Jesus was speaking about his impending death. To come down the mountain is to journey to the cross. We don't get to stay on the mountain with Jesus; we don't get to build tents on the summit, instead we travel back down in the valley of life with the God who tabernacles among us, in us, with us.

Come and behold him this Sunday!

Peace,

Porter+

RECTOR'S FORUM ARTICLE

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, the Pew Research Center released the data from their annual Religious Landscape Survey. This survey is the largest of its kind and it provides metrics for understanding religion and spirituality in our nation. This year marked a significant point in time:

Christian decline has either slowed or leveled off. I would like to discuss this during Rector's Forum on Sunday.

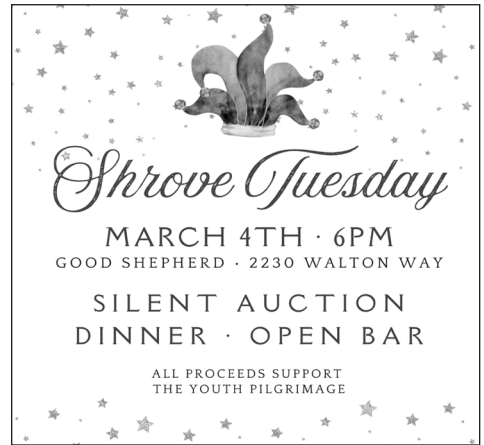


MAHJONG AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Some trends come and go, but there's something lasting about the game of Mahjong! You've probably heard that Augusta has been hit by a Mahjong craze and we want in on the action. On Sunday, **March 2** at 4:00pm we are hosting a Mahjong fest for newbies and experienced players. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends from the community who do not yet attend Good Shepherd. This event is free to attend and is BYOB and BYOS (bring your own beverage and snack)! If you are planning to attend, please fill out the form link on the website. There is a place to sign up to be a table host (meaning you can bring a set of tiles, racks, and four cards). If you are able to bring a card table, please email Rebecca Taylor (rebeccaebtaylor@gmail.com). While there will childcare available, if your child is interested in learning to play or already knows how, they are welcome to attend! If this is a popular event and we decide to do it monthly, we will need a good name. Bring your ideas! *Shepherd's Tiles? Sunday Shepherd's Shuffle? Episco-Tiles? Baa-Jong? (Get it?)*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE TIMES

The season of Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Good Shepherd will be holding services in the Nave at 7:00am, Noon, and 7:00pm. Please join as we observe a holy Lent.



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.

COGS

Our next COGS outreach will be **March 8th** from 9am until 12 pm. to pack food items needed for backpack meals for children in the community with food insecurity as well as senior boxes for seniors in need in our community.

We will meet at the Golden Harvest Warehouse, 3310 Commerce Drive and thanks to Amy Sutherland Nesbit who will be there to greet and direct folks since I will be out of town. Golden Harvest requires that people volunteering wear long pants, closed toe shoes, and shirts with long sleeves. They request no Crocs to be worn. Golden Harvest also requires that youth under the age of 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and that no children under 8 years old can volunteer. Please let Lynn Tyson know if you can participate in this ministry calling or texting **706-833-7415** or **ltyson517@gamil.com**. Thanks so much to everyone participating in this ministry as we share Good Shepherd's Mission and the message of the Gospel in the community.

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.

CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Saturday, **March 29th**, Elizabeth Gatter, our new Director of Music Ministries, will host a Choir Workshop for the St. Gregory and Good Shepherd Adult Choir to get to know its members and kick off learning for the remainder of Lent and Holy Week.

The St. Gregory choir members will meet in the choir room from 11am-12pm, directly followed by a pizza party for the children and their parents. Parents of St. Gregory choir members are encouraged to attend lunch and get to know Elizabeth. The Good Shepherd Adult Choir will meet from 2pm-4pm in the choir room.

The other date is Saturday, April 19th. We will hold a rehearsal from 10am-12pm in the church. If possible, the previous Wednesday rehearsal, the 16th, will also take place in the church. The same is true for the Sunday evening St. Gregory rehearsal on April 13th (if we have anyone in town.)

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, March 2, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersCamilla Davis, Lynn Tyson
Verger.....Fred Palmer
UshersZim Trulock, Peter Martinez

11:00 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersCheney Eldridge, Yvonne Harrison
Verger.....Stovall Walker
UshersJack Dugan, Jonathan Adamsr

6:00 PM

Organist & ChoirmasterDr. Dan Hardin
Lay ReadersJim Price, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar Guild Team VI
Breakfast Ministry Team VIII
Vestry Person of the Day John Manton

SAVE THE DATE: NEW STAFF RECEPTION

This month we have announced that we are bringing four new staff members to Good Shepherd. While their start dates are a bit staggered, we thought it would be fun to celebrate them all at once with a joint reception. Please join us to celebrate the new ministries of Elizabeth Gatter (Director of Music Ministries), Lauren Hargrove (Parish Nurse), Maureen McManus (Parish and Financial Administrator), and Ashley Williams (Children's Minister) on Sunday, **March 30** after the 6pm service. We have much to celebrate!

LENT READING GROUP

Our reading group continues to grow and we are excited to announce our next meeting. Please join us on Sunday, **March 16** at 4:30pm in the Conference Room as we discuss two books. The first book is *Passions of the Soul* by Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury); this is Bishop Logue's Lenten selection for 1Book1Diocese. The second book is *Lent* by Esau McCaulley. You can purchase copies of both books on Amazon. To shop locally, The Book

Tavern has copies of *Passions of the Soul* on hand. This group is open to all people and you can read one or both of the books. We hope to see you there!

CURSILLO ULTREYA GATHERING

Join us on **March 18th** at 6:00 pm, in the small parish hall. This gathering is for all those who have been to Cursillo at Honey Creek and anyone who is interested in attending or want to learn more about Cursillo. Please contact either Robin 839-273-0059, robin.bailie@gmail.com or Kathleen Bailie 706-399-7449 to sign up.

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 continues this Sunday, **March 2nd**. Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to join us for a fun evening of dinner and fellowship!