

# THE Shepherd's Fold

November 24, 2024

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to cook our turkeys and eat our cornbread dressing next week, we are collectively thinking about the many blessings of this life for which we are thankful and for which we give particular thanks every year. For Christians, however, gratitude is not a one day a year feeling. We are called to be people of gratitude, to live gratefully, and to offer thanksgiving at all times and in all places. Living a life of gratitude can be hard, however, especially when complaining, grumbling, and judgmentalism become habitual. Here are some ideas to help you become a person of gratitude:

- **Make a Gratitude List.** Early on in sobriety and recovery, my sponsor encouraged me to regularly make a gratitude list. I was amazed when I experienced the incredible power and perspective provided by something as small and simple as writing down all of the things for which I am grateful. The more grateful I am, the more I write, and the more I write, the more grateful I become!
- **Prioritize thanksgiving in your prayers.** Prayer works because it changes us. Many of us turn to prayer in times of need or trouble, but how many of us pray when we are feeling grateful or when we want to feel grateful? Prayer can get us “unstuck” when our attitudes are not in alignment with God’s will and praying prayers of gratitude can foster more gratitude in our hearts.
- **Tell others you are thankful for them.** Writing a gratitude list and praying to God keeps thankfulness private, but gratitude is meant to be shared. Writing thank you notes is good, but getting into the habit of expressing your gratitude for your family, friends, co-workers, and fellow church members is better. Make a commitment to thanking three people a day for a month and see how it changes you!

Friends, I want Good Shepherd to be known, both internally and externally, as a place of profound gratitude. The call in front of us is to develop an attitude of gratitude which moves beyond feeling and is instead embodied as we become a people who give thanks and encouragement at all times. I am grateful for each and every one of you!

Peace,  
Porter+

## STEWARDSHIP

If it has not already arrived, you will be receiving your Stewardship Packet in the coming days. The packet includes a letter from me explaining the details of our theme; a percentage-giving chart, a flyer highlighting the theme, a stewardship collect to pray, and your pledge card. Our Ingathering Sunday is **December 8th**, but you can submit your pledge earlier online, by return mail, or in the offering plate.

I am inviting all members of our parish to 100% participation in financial support of the mission and vision of Good Shepherd in 2025. Your pledge will help us fulfill the ministry to which God has called us and turning your card in before December 8 will help us set our 2025 budget.

## OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed after noon on Wednesday, and all day Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Italian word *crescendo* indicates the highest point of a gradual increase in the intensity of musical notes. The incarnation of Jesus is the *crescendo* in a series of songs sung by three women: Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Each of these songs focuses on what God has done, is doing, and will do - in them we see past, present, and future.

Join us on Wednesdays in Advent for our three-week series, **Crescendo: The Prophetic Songs and the Women Who Sang Them**. We will meet in the Parish Hall from 6:00-7:00pm on December 4, 11, and 18. Nursery will be provided for families with children.

## THANKSGIVING THANK YOU!

For the last two weeks we have placed a request for help with the Thanksgiving Day meal in the Shepherd's Fold, Sunday bulletin, and a special email. We are happy to report that we have received a flurry of sign-ups and the Thanksgiving Day meal will take place as previously scheduled. Thank you to Harriet Deas and to all who have agreed to participate!

## RECTOR'S FORUM

Rector's Forum will resume in the Parish Hall this Sunday at 9:45am. This forum will dive into thought-provoking and timely articles, discussions on faith, culture, current events, and more. We'll explore theological reflections, the dechurching phenomenon, and the intersection of Christian values and modern society. Whether you choose Rector's Forum or another class, we hope you will join us during formation hour. Discipleship is at the heart of the Christian journey, and these opportunities to learn and grow together are vital to our mission and ministry at Good Shepherd.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

Join us Thanksgiving day, **November 28th**, for our service at 10am, then stay for supper in the Parish Hall. Wine, turkey and dressing will be provided.

## POSADA

To learn more and sign up for Posada, visit the Posada sign-up table in the Parish Hall, which will be open from Sunday, **November 10th, until November 24th**. Modern Posada utilizes nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each family the chance

to create their own celebration of making room for Jesus in their lives. To participate, add your name to the schedule on a night that best suits your family and friends. The previous participant will arrange to bring the figures to your home at a time that best suits both of your schedules.



## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT & POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

The deadline to place orders and submit payment for Poinsettias and Christmas Ornaments is this **Sunday, November 24th**. All orders must be picked up from the Parish Hall on **Sunday, December 1st**. Orders can be placed using the paper forms available in the Parish Hall foyer, front office, with Harriet in the Parish Hall on Sunday morning.

## ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is up in the Parish Hall. Please help a child in need this Christmas season by taking a tag and returning gifts to the church by **Sunday, December 1st**.

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

Bring a friend and join us on the church lawn for hot chocolate and carols as we light our Christmas Tree to mark the beginning of Advent on **December 1st at 6:00pm**. There will also be a service of Holy Eucharist following the tree lighting for all who are interested.

## THE BIBLE STORY BOOK SEARCH

If anyone has a set of the 1950's vintage hardback books, The Bible Story, by Arthur S. Maxwell, please contact Robin Bailie at **839-273-0059** or **Robin.bailie@gmail.com**.



## 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](mailto:mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org).

### YOUTH GROUP

Due to Happening and Thanksgiving break, Youth Group will not gather this Sunday evening, November 24th. Sunday morning, we will still gather at 10am for our regular Christian Formation hour and resume Youth Group next weekend, December 1st, with the annual Tree Lighting.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Due to Thanksgiving break, we will not gather for Prayer Breakfast this Tuesday, the 26th. We will meet on December 3rd for our final Prayer Breakfast of the semester. Join us for hot chocolate and a waffle bar!

# Servers of the Shepherd

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Sunday, November 24, 2024

8:30 AM

Organist & Choirmaster ..... Jim Nord  
Lay Readers ..... Bobbie Ingenito, Camilla Davis  
Verger..... Stovall Walker  
Ushers ..... Zim Trulock, Peter Martinez  
Acolytes..... Emma Sue Getchell, Johnny Getchell,  
Jet Taylor, Case Taylor, Ellis Taylor

11:00 AM

Organist & Choirmaster ..... Jim Nord  
Lay Readers ..... Yvonne Harrison, Bob Nesbit  
Verger..... Jerry Woods  
Ushers ..... Jack Dugan, Fred Palmer  
Acolytes..... Anabelle Wilkes, Lillian Wilkes,  
Lachlan McKenna, Mid Leverett, Merritt Jones

6:00 PM

Organist ..... Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers ..... Kelley Norris, Jim Price

## All Services

Altar Guild ..... Team IV  
Breakfast Team ..... Team IV  
Vestry Person of the Day ..... Matt Tracy



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE A

## *Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols*

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 8, 2024  
SERVICE AT 6:30 PM | RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Join us for a special evening as we honor Jim Nord  
on his retirement and come together to  
celebrate the season with a beautiful Lessons &  
Carols service with the Good Shepherd  
and St. Gregory choirs!

Designed by Jackson Evans



## RETIREMENT CELEBRATION HONORING JIM NORD

The Parish is invited to a  
celebration honoring Jim  
Nord's retirement following  
the **6:30pm Lessons and  
Carols Service on Sunday,  
December 8th** in the Parish  
Hall. Please contact Alison  
Nesbit at [adnesbit@gmail.com](mailto:adnesbit@gmail.com)  
**com** if you have questions.

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A special thank you goes out to  
Jackson Evans for the beautifully  
designed invitation.