

THE Shepherd's Fold

December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Friends,

During Rector's Forum last Sunday, we had a lively discussion about the meaning of Advent and the various ways and means we can welcome newcomers to Good Shepherd this holiday season (and beyond). In The Shepherd's Fold, we have discussed the idea to Invite 3, Bring 1 and I have encouraged parishioners to sit closer to the front of the church...but what do we do when someone new actually comes to church? I'm so glad you asked!

Here are three ideas for you:

1. Watch and greet. Keep an eye open for people you don't recognize and make a point of greeting them. This could happen before the service, during the Peace, after the service, or at all three points. One of the easiest ways to help a first time visitor become a second time worshipper is to interact with them. This will likely mean moving from your pew and walking across the aisle...
2. Introduce them to others. You do not have to be solely responsible for the maintenance and care of a first time visitor. That can be a time-consuming, pressure-laden task. Make sure to introduce other people to our visitors and make them feel even more welcome. Pro tip: Introducing a newcomer to your friends is an easy way to avoid awkwardness if you've forgotten their name...and it also makes them feel part of something bigger!
3. Follow-up and Invite. As you finish your conversation with a visitor, be sure to invite them to one of our other events. We have so many fantastic programs and ministry meetings during the week and it is our privilege to invite new people to participate. We aren't asking newcomers to sit at the kid's table for Thanksgiving, but rather we are putting a new leaf (or two) into the middle of our table and making space.

Why is this important? William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44), famously proclaimed "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." As a parish we have so much to offer to those outside our walls and to those who are not yet our members, but we have to be intentional about inviting, welcoming, and connecting with our new worshippers as we hope to help them transition into new members.

Peace,
Porter+

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is part of our ongoing “yes” to opening our hearts fully to the Lord and joining him in his redemptive work in the world. The Vestry will soon begin budget preparations for 2025. Pledge cards help us have an accurate picture of our financial landscape during the budget season and allow us to plan for our ongoing mission and ministry. It is not too late to submit your pledge for 2025 online, by return mail, or on Sunday.

ADVENT RESOURCES

Printed copies of our three Advent resources (Resource Guide, O Antiphons Liturgy, and A Liturgy for the Lighting of Advent Candles) are now available in the Foyer. Stop by and pick up a copy if you prefer a print version. We created these resources to be used and to be shared, so please enjoy them and pass them along!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Join us on Wednesdays in Advent for our three-week series, **Crescendo: The Prophetic Songs and the Women Who Sang Them**. The incarnation of Jesus is the crescendo in a series of songs sung by three women: Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. 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

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

Bishop Logue has selected *The Love That is God* by Fritz Bauerschmidt as his 1Book1Diocese Advent read. This is an amazing book and it's only 128 pages! I encourage everyone to purchase a copy and read it. For those who want to “read together,” join me for a Book Club discussion on Sunday, December 22 at 4:30pm in the Conference Room. All are invited and welcome! - Porter+

The Book Tavern has ordered 15 copies of the book for Good Shepherd parishioners. You can purchase your copy early next week.



ADVENT PAGEANT

Sign up for animals and angels, three years of age through the 5th grade continues in the foyer. Sunday, **December 15th**, the speaking cast will rehearse in the sanctuary during the formation hour. Saturday, **December 21st**, the speaking cast will rehearse from 9:30-11:30 in the sanctuary. Animals and Angels will gather in the parish hall at 10:30 for a full rehearsal at 10:30. Pizza will be served at 11:30 in the small parish hall. Sunday, **December 22nd**, all children should arrive by 8:15 to put on costumes. Cast will be in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Animals and Angels will be in the parish Hall. This is a good time to take pictures. Parents, save space in the pew for your child. They will join you at the conclusion of the pageant. Be sure to return the costumes to the correct rack.

ADVENT PAGEANT RECEPTION

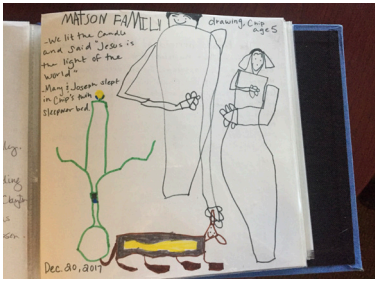
Help celebrate our children with goodies and punch in the parish hall immediately following the 8:30 service. Sign up in the Shell to bring a sweet or savory dish or call Jinny or Lynn.



CHILDREN OF THE CRECHE

Sign up continues in the foyer.

Children will line up at 3:45pm in front of the church. They will enter the church during the singing of “The Friendly Beasts.” At the conclusion of the hymn, they will join parents in the pew.



THE POSADA

Joseph and Mary continue their journey this week and still need lodging **December 13, 14, and 17.** Call Jinny if you can make room for them.

The Boulus family is hosting **December 12th**; the Bess family **December 15**; the Getchells **December 16th**; Wheelers

December 18th; and the Mize family on **December 19th.**

STAFFING CHANGE

Emily Mumford will be leaving her position as Parish Administrator for a new position of Business Administrator at Grace United Methodist Church. Her last day at Good Shepherd is December 30. We are grateful for her work and service for the past ten years and we wish her well!

CHRISTMAS AT

— GOOD SHEPHERD —

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December 22

8:30am Advent Pageant & Holy Eucharist
 10:00am Advent Pageant Reception
 11:00am Advent IV Holy Eucharist
 6:00pm Advent IV Holy Eucharist

December 24

4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service
 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service with the Saint Gregory Choir
 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service with the Good Shepherd Choir

December 25

11:00am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Christmas Altar Flowers

Contribute to the altar flowers at Christmas by completing and returning the form below. Make your gifts payable to Good Shepherd marked as *Christmas Flowers*. Forms must be received by December 15 in order to appear in the order of service.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Enclosed Amount: _____

In honor of/memory of (circle one) _____

By: _____

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:30 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Lay Readers Bobbie Ingenito, Lynn Tyson
Verger.....Sada Huggins
Acolytes.....Julian Barrett, Catherine Barrett,
Caroline Doyle, Mary Coles Doyle, Bo Cates

11:00 AM

Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Lay Readers Lynn Smith, Yvonne Harrison
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Acolytes.....Crawford McDougal, Eliza McCutcheon,
Caroline McCutcheon, Hub Wier, Hamp Helton,
Si Williams

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Lay Readers Faith Moore, Jim Price

All Services

Altar Guild Team VI
Breakfast Team.....Team V
Vestry Person of the Day Ed Enoch

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

Join us this Sunday, the 15th, from 5-7:30pm, for our final Youth Group gathering of the year - our annual Christmas Party! We will gather for Caroling down Williams Street, White Elephant Gift Exchange, games, and dinner provided by Rosie Speer and Sarah Cuevas. Grades 6th-12th.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

For Children and Student Christian Formation, this Sunday will be our final gathering for the year from 9:45-10:45am. We will resume Catechesis and J2A in early January. We're so grateful to our Catechists and teachers for another wonderful semester of learning and play.

CHRISTMAS EVE ACOLYTES

Please head over to the SHELL to sign up to acolyte on Christmas Eve. Acolyte rehearsal for the 4pm and 6pm services is on Thursday, December 19th, at 4pm. Thank you for acolyting!

ADVENT PAGEANT RECEPTION

After the Advent Pageant on December 22nd at the 8:30am service, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a reception celebrating our cast, animals, and angels! Please sign-up to bring food plated and ready to serve.



COGS YOUTH GROUP
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Jingle & Mingle

CAROLING, DINNER, WHITE ELEPHANT, AND HOLIDAY GAMES
Please bring a gift \$20 or less in value for White Elephant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
5:00-7:30PM | PARISH HALL