

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 5, 2025

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Dear Friends,

This weekend marks another turning point in the liturgical year as we conclude the feasting of Christmastide and enter into the light-filled proclamation of Epiphanytide. Like Christmas, Epiphany is both a feast day and a season. The term *epiphany* means, “to make known or reveal.” On the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the coming of the Magi who brought gifts to the Christ-child, and in so doing, revealed Jesus as Lord and King to the world. Some common themes of the season of Epiphany are crowns (to celebrate the Magi recognizing Jesus and King), light (Jesus as the Light of the World), and the star which led the Magi to Jesus. January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany, and the time between this feast and the season of Lent is called either the season of the Epiphany or Ordinary Time. Depending on the year, this season can last four to nine weeks.

After a season of preparation (Advent) and celebration (Christmas), we enter into an intentional season of proclamation. Our Gospel lessons will focus on stories of Jesus which reveal and make known his identity as the light of the world and the Son of God. Epiphanytide is all about the revealing and unveiling of God's glory in Jesus. Each Sunday after the Epiphany, therefore, highlights a unique aspect of Jesus' ministry wherein we see the glory of God. Epiphanytide is our opportunity to see Jesus as he truly is, to understand him as the Son of God who has come into the world to save the world.

We look forward to worshiping with you on Sunday as we bring Christmastide to a close and as we proclaim the light of Christ in Epiphany!

Peace,

Porter+

BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY

Breakfast will resume this Sunday, **January 5th**. We hope you'll join us!

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

While it might look like scribbles, there is a logical symbolism behind each mark: C, M, and B have two meanings. The letters abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless the house." They also represent the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. While these are probably not actually the names of the magi (especially since we don't know the exact number of magi), these names have been commonly used since 500AD. The numbers on either side represent the year 2025. Next year the chalk will have 20 at the beginning and 26 at the end.

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, March 9 at 4:30pm in the Conference Room.

STEWARDSHIP

It is not too late to submit your pledge for 2025 online, by return mail, or on Sunday. 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. If you have not already turned in a pledge card, we encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so!

INTERFAITH SERVICE

An Interfaith Service for Healing of the Mind and Spirit will be held on Tuesday, **January 7th** at 6:30pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church (3131 Walton Way). This service is a community-wide event for all those whose lives have been touched by mental health concerns as well as for health care providers, family members and caregivers. Participants from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, and Hindu traditions will be represented in the service, and all are welcome. A reception will follow with education about mental health resources in the community. A grant from Community and World Ministries at Good Shepherd has helped to support this initiative. For more information, please contact Lynn Tyson (**ltyson517@gmail.com**).

COGS

Thanks so much to everyone for supporting COGS ministries in our community this year at Golden Harvest, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries, Take Back the Block, and numerous events at the Byllesby Center including Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Boxes, and Christmas Festival. Our new Rector has pointed out that we are not simply volunteers, but ministers spreading the message

of the Gospel and mission of Good Shepherd in the community with our outreach. Please let me know of any ideas for further ministry or if anyone would like to serve helping in coordinating our outreach. Our COGS outreach ministry will begin at Golden Harvest (3310 Commerce Dr, Augusta, GA 30909) on **January 11th** from 1:00-4:00pm packing backpack meals and senior boxes for those with food insecurity in our community. Volunteers must be 8 years or older to attend with parents and everyone needs to wear closed toe shoes. If you would like to participate please let Lynn Tyson know (**ltyson517@gmail.com**).

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!

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 5, 2025

8:30 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Cissy Bowden, Camilla Davis
Verger..... TBD
Ushers Ed Enoch, Zim Trulock

11:00 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Dan Hardin
Lay Readers Bob Nesbit, Andrew Austin
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Ushers Glen Owen, Fred Palmer

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Aaron Dixon
Lay Readers Anne Floyd, Jennie Haynes

All Services

Altar Guild Team II
Breakfast Ministry Team I
Vestry Person of the Day Coles Hull Doyle

