

THE Shepherd's Fold

January 7, 2024

First Sunday after the Epiphany

ISOLATION

The sign on the door said “ISOLATION.” Unfortunately, the door was to my hospital room. Instead of taking out the old year and bringing in 2024 with my family, I spent those days tethered to IV’s receiving powerful antivirals, steroids, and a host of other drugs for Covid pneumonia and Influenza A. I saw only one nurse at a time – I never saw my family.

I had a lot of time to think. My reverie brought me back to those terrible pandemic days when for weeks millions were experiencing isolation and loneliness with many dying without their families with them.

Even though I was isolated, I never felt alone. Even through the long nights I never felt alone. The Spirit, my Advocate was there through all the many prayers I knew you were offering up for me. For that I am so grateful! I gave regular thanks to God that He put me at Good Shepherd for the last 50 years!

Somewhere along the way I had some sobering thoughts. I am well-known, upfront, your priest. We have known and loved each other through decades of friendship, so it is natural to have an outpouring of concern. But then what about our fellow members who are perhaps not so well-known? Members who may be isolated, alone or feel forgotten – what about them?

How about this for a New Years resolution? I am challenging myself to do this – perhaps you’ll join me.

For the days, weeks, and months ahead all of us who are “regulars” pause and look around your pews to note who you haven’t seen in a while. Then contact them and catch up – simple!

There should never be an isolated or lonely Christian. There must never be an isolated, lonely, or forgotten member of the Church of the Good Shepherd!

Peace,



MEN'S NIGHT

Join us on Wednesday **January 10**, beginning at 5:30pm. The menu will include Brats and beer, beans, sauerkraut, pie and tea. Please invite someone! Text or email Robin at 706-736-4460 or email robin.bailie@gmail.com.

SHEPARD COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person – the gift of life. The Bloodmobile will be parked at the Church of the Good Shepherd back parking lot on **January 7, 9 am - 12:30 pm**. Please consider donating a unit of lifesaving blood.

CALLING ALL CURSILLISTAS: WELCOME HOME ULTREYA

On **January 9th** at 6:00 PM, we will have a Welcome Home Ultreya for those who attended Cursillo #127, pot luck in the parish hall. All those who have been to Cursillo and anyone interested in attending a Cursillo weekend in the future are invited to an evening of song, celebration, and good food.



After a 10-year hiatus, Back to the Bible (B2B) returns to Good Shepherd in 2024! The groups will begin on **January 8**. The five groups offer the following meeting times: Sundays at 10:00 AM and 4:30PM, Tuesdays at 4:00 PM, Wednesdays at 11:00 AM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM. There is

also a group that will meet on Sundays at 4:00 PM, but this group will aim to complete the reading in two years rather than one year. Sign up with Signup Genius at bit.ly/b2bible and begin a one year journey into the entire Bible.



YOUTH NEWS

Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for upcoming events. For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group resumes this Sunday, January 7th! We look forward to a fun evening of fellowship, games, and dinner! To sign up for meals, please head to the Shell Newsletter.

5:00 - 6:00 PM: RITE-13:

Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

6:00 - 6:30 PM: RITE-13 & J2A:

Gather for Dinner in Small Parish Hall

6:30 - 7:30 PM: J2A:

Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

A new acolyte schedule has been released! Check the Shell Newsletter and save your assigned dates. The new schedule runs from now until the end of March.

SKI TRIP

The Good Shepherd Youth Ski Trip is scheduled for **February 2nd - 4th**. For details, registration, and costs, please email mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

dates to Remember

- Sunday Breakfast resumes Sunday, January 7th.
- Christian Formation resumes January 7th.

COGS IS BACK FOR 2024!

Some of you may remember from the past the COGS volunteer efforts to provide needed services to community organizations reaching out to those in need. We will be starting back COGS for this year meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month with opportunities for outreach by acting on the message of the Gospel. Our first COGS will be on **January 20th at Golden Harvest Food Bank, 3310 Commerce Drive, from 1-4pm**. We will be packing food for the Backpack Program for Children and/or the Senior Box Program. If you are interested in volunteering for this much needed ministry please e-mail **Lynn Tyson, ltyson517@gmail.com**, with your name and contact information as well as the time you can work: 1-4pm, 1-2:30pm, or 2:30-4pm or call Lynn at **706-833-7415** if you have questions. Golden Harvest requires that people volunteering wear long pants, closed toe shoes and shirts with long sleeves. Water will be provided and snacks when the task is finished. We suggest this be an adult or family activity and if youth are involved Golden Harvest requires that children under the age of 13 be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



What a great way to start the New Year and spread Good Shepherd's mission into the community!

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist.....Wayne Lord
Lay Reader.....Camilla Davis, Cissy Bowden

9:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist & Choirmaster.....Jim Nord
Lay Readers.....Bob Nesbit, Jennie Haynes
Ushers.....Peter Martinez, Matt Matson
Verger.....Jean Chadwick

11:15 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist.....Jim Nord
Lay Readers.....Lynn Smith, Heather Wheeler
Ushers.....Kevin McDougal, Alex Wier
Verger.....Jerry Woods

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist.....Nick Lowery
Lay Readers.....Jim Price, Anne Floyd

All Services

Altar Guild.....Team V
Breakfast Ministry.....Team VII
Vestry Person of the Day.....Ginger Chew

