

THE Shepherd's Fold

June 23, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

One of the major themes, if not THE major theme, of the Hebrew Scriptures is God's covenantal faithfulness (chesed or חֶסֶד) toward the people of Israel. No matter the circumstances, God's love for Israel was steadfast. When the people's circumstances were difficult—slavery, military defeat, natural disasters, exile, etc.—the people questioned God: “My god, my God, what have you forsaken me?” (**Psalm 22**); however, God's love never wavered. God extended that same love beyond Israel when he sent his son, Jesus, to save the whole world. Difficult circumstances continue to challenge God's people, but His love never fails.

Good Shepherd has seen more than its share of challenges in my three and a half years here: COVID, the controversy surrounding the EDS head of school, Robert's retirement and subsequent issues, the search for a new head of school which did not succeed on the first try, Andy's retirement, the loss of our youth minister to seminary, a devastating hail storm, the retirement of Mary Gail after decades leading the Altar Guild, the search for the new rector not succeeding on the first try, and a number of other more minor curveballs. Despite these challenges, Good Shepherd has continued to prosper. As Robert used to say, Good Shepherd is not only blessed by God but is truly favored by God. We now have a new Head of School in David Perkinson who has brought renewed energy to the school (and increasing enrollment). We have a new youth minister in Mary Grace Wynn who is doing a fantastic job in revitalizing our youth ministry. Good Shepherd has expanded its outreach with the Byllesby Center at Christ Church and the restart of the COGS ministry. Sharon Enoch is our new head of the Altar Guild. Our finances remained strong throughout COVID and continue to be strong. Our attendance, while not at prepandemic levels, is improving steadily. God is faithful!

I am confident that the search for Good Shepherd's next rector will be successful, albeit in God's time. The energy and excitement that will come with the new rector will further boost our attendance. Good Shepherd's ministry to the greater community will only increase with our support of the Byllesby Center. EDS is experiencing growth that it has not seen in more than a decade. God is with us.

It has been a privilege to return to Good Shepherd, my true home, for these three and a half years. I am thankful for all of the support that I have received, but most importantly, I am thankful for the faithfulness of this congregation.

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While there is much hand-wringing about the future of Christianity and the Church at large, I have no worries about the future of Good Shepherd. With its wonderful and committed lay leadership, a new rector, and God's favor, the future is ever so bright.

Jed +

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PARISH NEWS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ginger, Baxley, Henry, Virginia, and Stella on the death of Carla Douthit Dodd, Ginger's mother, and the children's grandmother.



KANUGA PARISH WEEKEND

Join us for a crisp, beautiful fall weekend in North Carolina, **September 20-22**. We will have activities for kids and youth, s'mores by the fire, a cabin crawl, drinks and compline on the lake, movie and game night, hiking, and more. This is a fun weekend that you do NOT want to miss. Pick up a form in the lobby or register online: bit.ly/gskanuga

BACK TO THE BIBLE

For the monthly readings pick up a bookmark or navigate to our B2B page: goodshepherd-augusta.org/b2b.



Scan me

BREAKFAST TEAMS

Join a breakfast team! The time commitment is a few hours on Sunday morning every 4-6 weeks during the

program year from August to May. The teams have fun cooking and fellowshiping together, and we would love a few extra volunteers! For more information, contact **Harriet Deas, (706) 373-0780**.

EfM

Are you interested in the Education for Ministry program? More than a Bible study, EfM takes a fresh look at life events in the light of church tradition and 21st century culture. Participants study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. The Church of the Good Shepherd offers an EFM group on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. and will begin in late August. Everyone is welcome and we encourage those from all parishes to join us! You can sign up now!! For more information, contact Tom Smyth, tom.smyth@icloud.com. Details about the program are located at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are happy to report that our parish profile was updated to include information about our catechesis program as well as our youth program and put back out for review. In addition, we have been communicating with seminaries, clergy in leadership positions, and other personal contacts to secure additional candidates. We are looking forward to hearing this week from a new slate of candidates and will begin the process of zoom interviews followed by face to face interviews. We ask for the congregation to continue to pray for the work of the committee as we move

forward. We are also very thankful for the continued support of our current clergy to assist through the summer months. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns-it is an honor and privilege to serve each of you moving forward.

Ashley and Neal
Search Committee Co-Chairs

FAMILY PROMISE

Good Shepherd will host Family Promise for the week of **July 14th**. Good Shepherd will provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for the two families (five people and no allergies) living at Family Promise facility at **4211 Wheeler Road in Martinez, Georgia**. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parish House this weekend. Breakfasts, lunches and snacks should be brought to Good Shepherd's Kitchen by **Saturday July 13th by 2 pm**. There will be counter space and refrigerator/freezer space available. This food will be delivered to Family Promise Saturday afternoon. Dinners should be brought to the Family Promise House by 5:30 pm each day.

JAMES NORD'S RETIREMENT

Dear Friends:

I will be retiring from my ministry as your Organist and Choirmaster at the end of this calendar year. You have been a big part of my life for the past 43 years, so this decision has not been made easily.

It is unusual to announce a retirement this far in advance, but this will give you time to have a new rector in place. The relationship between the rector and the organist and choirmaster is an important one, so it is essential that the new rector call the new musician. Seven months should be a good period of time for this to happen.

Good Shepherd remains one of the finest Episcopal churches in the country. I am profoundly grateful for the years I have been allowed to minister here.

With love and thanks,

- Jim

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.

POOL PARTY

Youth currently in grades 6th-12th are invited to join us for a Pool Party this **Sunday, June 23rd**, from 4-6 pm. Please RSVP to Mary Grace Wynn.

ACOLYTE SIGN UP

For the month of July and early August, we will be using Sign-Up Genius to assign acolyte dates. Please head to the Shell Newsletter to sign up for dates available.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, June 23, 2024

8:00 AM

Celebrant.....Joe Bowden
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist.....Wayne Lord
Lay Readers.....David Lentz, Mitzi McCoy

10:00 AM

Celebrant.....Joe Bowden
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist & Choirmasters.....Jim Nord
Verge.....Rob Dennis
Ushers.....Zim Trulock, Matt Tracy
Lay Readers.....Heather Wheeler, Lynn Smith
Acolytes.....Jack Manton, Milly Manton
Coles Doyle

6:00 PM

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson
Organist.....Nick Lowery
Lay Readers.....Jennie Haynes, Yvonne Harrison

All Services

Altar Guild.....Team V
Vestry Person of the Day.....Tom Smyth



RECEPTION FOR TED CLARKSON

Join us for a reception to honor the Rev. Ted H. Clarkson on **Sunday, June 23rd**. Plan to attend the Sunday morning service at 10 am and stay for a reception (catered by Jennifer Shuford) with mimosas in the Parish Hall. His last Sunday as our Interim Rector is June 30th. We are grateful for his time here as our Interim Rector, and we look forward to celebrating with him!