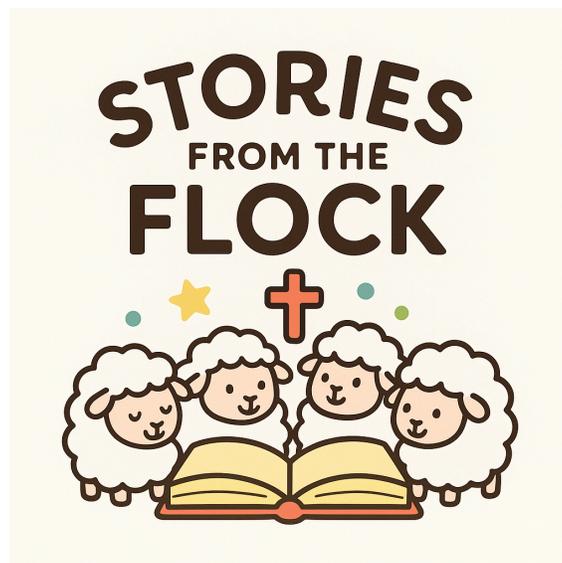




Growing in Faith Together

A monthly newsletter for Good Shepherd families with children

JANUARY 2026



Telling the Greatest Story Ever Told

The day of our Christmas pageant felt like more than a performance—it felt like a holy moment. Children filled the altar, each one in costume. There truly was a part for everyone, and that alone felt like a reflection of God's love: no one left out, no one too small, no one unnoticed.

As the pageant began, something beautiful happened. The children stood taller than usual, their faces glowing with pride. They knew they were telling the most famous story of all time—the story that has been shared for generations, the story that changed the world. This time, it was being told through them.

We followed the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, hearing again of angels and dreams, of faithful obedience, of a young mother who said yes to God, and a quiet father who trusted Him completely. Through Luke, we saw the wonder: shepherds amazed, angels rejoicing, and hearts filled with awe. Through Matthew, we felt the courage and faith: the journey, the protection, and the fulfillment of God's promise.

Some spoke lines with strong, clear voices. Others simply stood in place, holding stars, pretending to be sheep, or smiling shyly at the crowd. Every role mattered. Every child told the story in their own way, and together, they told it beautifully.

In that moment, it was clear this was a God moment. Not because everything was perfect, but because it was real. God was present in the laughter, the nerves, the missed lines, and the joyful singing. He was present in the way the children supported one another and in the way their families watched with grateful hearts.

That night reminded us that the Christmas story is still alive. It is still being told—through willing hearts, through brave children, and through a community coming together to share the good news. And just like the first Christmas, God chose to work through the humble and the young to remind us of His great love.





Faith at Home is a regular feature of this newsletter, suggesting ways that your family can develop strong faith traditions in your home.

Celebrating Epiphany as a family

Celebrating Epiphany is a special way to wrap up the Christmas season. Try one or all of these this year!

Christmas isn't over yet, y'all. We've got one more celebration to have, and it's one of my favorite: Epiphany, the day when the wise men reached the Christ Child with their gifts.

Here are a few ways to celebrate this special day with your whole family.

1 Go to Church

This one might be obvious, but it's still the most important. Going to Church as a family on Epiphany is the best way to make the holiday both real and holy for your family, so don't let it get lost in the shuffle. Make this priority number one.

2 Move the Wisemen to Jesus

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is to have the Wise Men journey around the house towards the Nativity scene during the Christmas season. After Christmas, they get gradually closer to the manger and on Epiphany, the youngest child in the family gets to move them to the Christ child. It's a visual way to remind us all that the Christmas season doesn't end with the birth of Christ, and having the Magi finally join Mary, Jesus, and Joseph is a special way to wrap up Christmas.

3 Give Gifts to Godparents

Since the Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ child, whom they didn't fully understand but knew was important for the entire world, have your kids identify people who have a special spiritual significance in their lives. My kids usually choose their godparents, but for yours it might be an aunt, priest, or Sunday school teacher – the important thing is not to impose your opinions but to let your child choose for themselves. Help them prepare a special gift for that person ahead of time, so on Epiphany day your children can deliver their gifts just like the Wise Men delivered gifts to the Christ child.

4 Read an Epiphany Story

Every year I choose a different story or poem to read them before we have Epiphany bread. Get creative in your search. There are plenty of stories and poems out there, so go explore! (Word to the wise: T.S.

Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi" is probably not your best choice here — it's an extraordinary poem but a real downer, so maybe choose something more upbeat!)

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Family Ministry Page

Psalm 127:3

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward".

Who to Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about the following information, please contact our Director of Children's Ministry, Michelle Lane at 561-746-4674 or email her at mlane@goodsheponline.org.



GOOD SHEPHERD
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL
TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

Visit GoodShepOnline.org

www.goodsheponline.org

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School
The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr., Rector
Michelle Lane, Children's Minister

561-746-4674



Try email marketing for free today!