

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

FEBRUARY 2007

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Dear Friends,

Over 75% of Americans self-identify and Christians. About 40% of Americans report regular attendance at worship in their faith communities. Doesn't sound too bad, does it? However, more critical research (designed to get at what people *do*, rather than what they *say* that they do) indicates that only a little over 20% of the entire United States population attends church on a weekly basis. Adding those who do so once or twice a month, makes for a total of around one third for whom corporate worship is actually a regular reality.

This is a time of year when we update our own parish statistics. (The Episcopal Church is conscientious – to say the least – in record keeping.) Our worship participation at Good Shepherd has been remarkably level for many years. Part of the reason for this is that we've been more than "maxed-out" in our facilities for a long time, not just for worship, but especially in youth and educational space, as well.

But, let's be honest. Aside from very few days a year (Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Easter) it is *not* difficult to find a seat even at the 10:30 service. True, it may be a bit more cozy than a visitor would typically feel fully comfortable with – but not difficult at all.

What's our participation, percentage-wise, here at Good Shepherd? The first question is: percentage of what? All those who at any point were baptized or affiliated here and who still live within a fifteen-mile radius? Obviously not! That might provide a feel-good statistic, but not a very meaningful one. Here's the percentage-basis that I'm working with: those who meet the canonical criteria for presently identifiable active membership.

So, what's that percentage? The average Sunday attendance (including Saturday evening) at our parish is about one third of the active membership. When one factors

individual worship patterns into the equation, our going-to-church patterns *among our active membership* are almost identical with those in the United States population as a whole!

Yes, it may have been this way for a long time. Yes, it can get a little cramped from time to time. But Good Shepherd can do better. And Good Shepherd needs to do better.

Of course, we always seek to improve what we offer here in all our services and programs. I seriously invite suggestions as to how we may do so. But I also can affirm that what Good Shepherd offers is of consistently and reliably high quality – throughout the various dimensions of our congregational life.

Episcopalians are neither much into either legalism or guilt. We're flexible; not inclined to "one size fits all" approaches. But our tradition characteristically also places a very high premium on the importance of corporate Sunday fellowship. (And remember, liturgically speaking, Sunday begins on our Saturday evening!)

We're familiar with the concept of the tithe. We should be. It is critical to how we think (and act) financially. But we don't only offer a monetary "first-fruits." The concept of *the tithe of time* is also indispensable. Christian fellowship is not something we fit into our schedule leftovers; it's meant to be a governing commitment in our living – as persons and as households.

Furthermore, and I believe this to be especially important: Christian fellowship is not a product we consume, but a calling in which we participate. Wherever we are in the course of our faith journey, the ups and downs and in-betweens, each and every one of us has an utterly unique gift to offer just by being here. Our sisters and brothers wait for the particular manifestation of Christ that comes through *us*, personally.

I don't offer this so that anyone should feel bad. I do encourage us to be mindful, reflective, deliberate. Of course, saying "Yes" to one thing sometimes means that we don't say it to something else. That's how life works.

Let's see if Good Shepherd Church can take our long-awaited next step. There's never an ideal time. Frankly,

within the realm of our present existence, there is no such thing as “ideal.” The place we meet eternity is now.

Sunday is the *first* day of the week; the Day of Resurrection, new beginning. May it be so – more perfectly – for all of us. This very next Sunday, to all of us, I say, “Come as you are.”

Blessings.

Adam †

Forgiveness

Perhaps you have either participated in or caused the following scenario:

Small child is standing in front of another child. The small child is looking down at the floor. His arms are limp at his sides. His mother (father) stands behind him. The second child glares at the small child. The parent whispers in the small child's ear and gently pushes him toward the second child.

Small child mumbling: I'm sorry I hit you. Will you forgive me?

Second child continues to glare.

I grew up being in this scenario. I either played the role of the small child – the hitter. Or, occasionally, the role of the second child – the “hittee,” if you will. Of course, the scene wasn't always about hitting. Sometimes it was about lying or breaking things, or not sharing. I seemed to visit most of the childhood infractions on a fairly regular basis.

The problem for me in these scenarios was that when the ordeal of asking for forgiveness was over, I didn't feel forgiven, I felt resentful and abused. When I was on the receiving end of the punch (much less often), I would find myself luxuriating in my woundedness. I would also feel frustrated if I found a few days after such an incident, that, while I knew I was angry at so-and-so, I couldn't remember *why!*

What I tended to learn from these encounters was that it was perfectly acceptable to **pretend** to be involved in asking for forgiveness, and perfectly alright to **pretend** to forgive. Children all over the world I suspect, learn this lesson well. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to carry the lesson into so-called adulthood. A quick survey of wars, broken treaties,

arms negotiations, divorce court hearings, Jerry Springer guests, and political action groups provides plenty of evidence.

Knowing my own shortcomings in this area, I have turned to L. William Countryman and his book, *Forgiven and Forgiving*, to help me understand why I sometimes still find the whole issue of true forgiving so daunting, and why I often feel unforgiven for my failings. It is a journey of faith.

If you would like to take this journey into the land of forgiveness with me, please attend the study sessions offered on Countrymen's book. We will discuss the reading and the connections to our own forgiveness dilemmas.

The sessions meet for three Tuesday evenings, at 7:00pm in the church parlor. The sessions are scheduled for January 30 (pages 1-56), February 6 (pages 57-94), and February 13 (pages 95-132).

If you can, bring the friend you punched.

Blessings

Claudia †

Rector's Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Friday is Fr. Adam's usual day off. Always feel free to contact him in the event of a hospitalization or a pastoral emergency at the office (392-8168) or at home (605-1883).

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00am - noon, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Fridays the office will close at 3:00pm.

Phone: 392-8168

Fax: 627-7026

Email: goodshepherd -ut@qwest.net

Website: www.goodshepherdogden.org

Youth Impact Update

On January 1, 2007, Youth Impact Inc. Officially started operating under our own financial management system. Frankly, I think this is a quantum leap in our ability to manage our program. For all you wonderful supporters at Good Shepherd, I thought it would be appropriate to write a few words in way of a summary of how we got to this status.

On December 5, 2005, with the assistance of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, we filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Utah. We received a Certificate of Registration that certified that these corporate papers had been filed and approved as of that date, December 5, 2005.

During the year of 2006, the original Board of Advisors transitioned into a Board of Directors. Throughout the year, Bylaws were established, procedures and policies were established and the necessary actions taken to insure Youth Impact Inc. Could be up and running as a separate legal 501-(3) Non Profit Corporation by January 1, 2007. Although there is still much to do, I believe we can honestly say that we are there. None of this could have been done without the unwavering assistance of the Episcopal Diocese, the great folks of Good Shepherd and a wonderful group of hard working Staff and Board Members.

When I started to write this, I planned to go into many of the details that had to be addressed to get where we are. To do this would take far too much time, so I decided the proof is in the pudding. We are where we said we would be. However, this is only the beginning. We have launched the Good Ship Youth Impact, INC.! I have no doubt that with the crew we have, the pledged five year support we have from the Diocese, the support we have from Good Shepherd, the community, volunteers and the many foundations that believe in our program, our future is very bright to grow and continue to provide 'A SAFE PLACE TO BE A KID' for the at-risk kids of inner city Ogden.

THANK YOU!

Vern Bergstom
Chairman

What's New in The Attic

This month, we are featuring Holding Crosses for personal prayer and devotions. The Holding Cross is a personal cross. It is a small wooden cross to be held in the palm of your hand. As you wrap your hand around the uneven cut and rounded edges, your hand will naturally cradle the cross. Holding your cross can be helpful when praying for others, especially for those who are suffering.

Using a hand-held cross is an ancient tradition that has been used throughout the world for centuries. Since the early church, being identified with a cross has been a universal acknowledgment of being a Christian.

Each cross is unique and one of a kind. Crosses vary in thickness, wood grain, and color patterns due to the actual wood from which it is cut. No two pieces of wood are the same.

In addition to the Holding Crosses, we are featuring gift items for Valentine's Day. These include "Holy Bears", "Jesus Loves Me Puppies", stained glass hearts, and other miscellaneous items.

The entire line of Trinity jewelry is being closed out and all Trinity crosses and chains have been marked down twenty

percent. We continue to take orders for Good Shepherd sweatshirts and are also taking orders for Good Shepherd golf shirts and long-sleeved and short-sleeved tee shirts. There are a variety of sizes and colors to choose from.

We are expanding our inventory of books, including books for children, and would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Thank you for your continued support of The Attic.

The Attic

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden

Gifts ~ Books ~ Jewelry

Open Sundays 9:00am - 1:30pm
Wednesdays 10:00am - 1:00pm
Thursdays Noon - 1:00pm

Adult Sunday School

We will continue our reflection on apprenticeship to Jesus, through study and discussions on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1 - 7:29), using Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering our Hidden Life in God*, as a special resource.

February 4: "The Community of Prayerful Love" (Part III continued), 6:9-13.

February 11: "Being a Student of Jesus" 7:13-29.

February 18: "A Curriculum for Christlikeness" (Part I)

February 25: *The Divine Conspiracy*: Hearing the Sermon

March 4: "A Curriculum for Christlikeness" (Part II)

Confirmation Classes

Youth:

Classes meet at 5:45pm

February 5: Bible, Journey with a Gospel

February 19: Growing in Prayer, Part One

Adults:

Classes meet at 3:00pm

February 17: Growing in Prayer

St. Anne's Center Report

St. Anne's Center has been an important part of the Good Shepherd family since its inception 25 years ago. We were there when it started and we continue to support its effort. Mother Claudia and I serve on the Board of Directors of St. Anne's. To say the least, it has been an interesting adventure the past few months and an update for the parish is in order.

Recent newspaper articles may give the impression that St. Anne's intends to move to 12th Street and be a part of a new campus type facility. The board has not taken a position one way or another on a move. We can't possibly make an informed decision without seeing what the city is proposing. They have not done so up to this point. Please be assured that the board's primary function is to serve its client while serving the Ogden community. We are in the process of gathering data to see what best serves St. Anne's needs.

One of the exciting things going on at the Center is an attempt to move from the idea that St. Anne's Center is only a shelter. We currently serve our clients in a variety of ways from food, clothing, and shelter to counseling and referring individuals to specific programs. We are moving to having more programs in order to transition people back into the community. It is a daunting task but I feel we are up to it. One of St. Anne's goals then is to help reduce the poverty in the area by increasing these programs.

I have had several people ask how we can help. Over the next few months you will be updated in *The Call* and inserts in the bulletin on how you can help with a variety of projects we plan to undertake. For example, during the spring we are going to do some major re-landscaping of the area and painting of the building. We can use volunteers to input data and even just sit and talk, read or watch TV with some of God's people.

Financially, I am proud to say that it is Good Shepherd and its members as individual donors, that keep St. Anne's Center going strong. We can always use any additional

financial assistance that you may consider giving to the center. The board is currently seeking a 10 @ 10 campaign. We are trying to find 10 people who could give \$10 consistently a month to St. Anne's. So far we have reached 35% of our goal. If you care to help in this way, contact me at church or home.

Again, I want to thank the people of Good Shepherd for continuing to see Christ in the faces of those served by St. Anne's. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Mother Claudia.

Sincerely,
Dave Seiter

Revised Common Lectionary

February 4
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

February 11
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 18, 2007
Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

February 21
Ash Wednesday
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 103:8-14
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 25
First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
Good Shepherd – 6:00pm
February 20, 2007**

Please join us for feast and fellowship in the downstairs dining area. Please let us know how many of you are coming.

**Ash Wednesday Services
February 21, 2007**

**12:15pm – Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes**

**7:00pm – Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes**

Acolyte Schedule – February

February 4

8:00 Dan Johnston

10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon
Crucifer: Sarah Guyon
Clergy Cross: Brandon Backus
Torches: Madeline Gale, Andrea Arnett

February 11

8:00 Brenda Ruffier

10:30 Server: Taryn Kelly
Crucifer: Alaina Kelly
Clergy Cross: Matthew Hales
Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Tori Skiver

February 18

8:00 Bonnie Taylor
10:30 Server: Isabel Robinson
Crucifer: Patrick Campbell
Clergy Cross: Nolan Peters
Torches: Shayn Moss, Madeline Gale

February 25

8:00 John Kunkel
10:30 Server: Robert Fairchild
Crucifer: Melissa Fairchild
Clergy Cross: Hope Linton
Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Tori Skiver

March 4

8:00 David Seiter
10:30 Server: Brandon Backus
Crucifer: Zachary Bray
Clergy Cross: Mckenzie Bray
Torches: Shayn Moss, Andrea Arnett

February Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

1. Patrick Linton
6. Hope Linton
7. Carol Mansfield
8. Billie Wilson
10. Joshua Stump
13. Shelise Stump
15. Bart Stump
16. Laura Clark
19. Robert Fairchild
20. Diane Fairchild
22. Amy Ellis
24. Arno Bosley, Jon Gill, Muriel Hardy, Bill Tabar

February Anniversaries

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. Amen. (BCP)

2. Russ & Carlisle LeBarron
7. Vernon & Jacque Bergstrom, Jon & Rhonda Gill
9. James & Carol Mansfield