

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

MARCH 2007

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

In my remarks with you in this month's edition of *The Call* I have two topics:

- 1) church attendance; and,
- 2) a suggested parish-wide reading project for this Lent and Eastertide.

In my article last month I spoke at some length about how important – for both individuals and households – Lord's Day worship with the church is. It's not everything in our faith life, by a long shot, but it is essential; really irreplaceable. What we "get out of it" is directly related to the regular commitment we make – the gift of our presence, for ourselves and others. So much of our spiritual nourishment comes through indirect, inductive, and gradually cumulative means. The sudden bursts of insight almost always come in a plain context of regular spiritual practice. I don't want to repeat what I said last month, so I'll make it simple:

if we go to church every (or almost every) week, keep it up;

if we go to church on a less regular basis, take the next step in more frequent attendance; and,

if we find that it's suddenly gotten to be a long time since we passed through the red doors, come! Do so this very next Sunday, if possible. I'm tempted to offer the slogan for Nike shoes, "Just do it." Lent is the perfect time for new beginning.

I also wanted to suggest a parish wide personal reading project for this Lent and the following Eastertide. First of all, please don't worry if this particular project doesn't quite work for you. Fine something else which does. (Good Shepherd is offering, by the way, several special opportunities for education and reflection this season. Check inside for details.) Most of you are perhaps too much aware of my affection for J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Every couple of years I find that I need to take a serious trip back to

either Middle-earth or Narnia. It's time for me – so I thought that I'd invite others to take the journey with me, this time through *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

I always stress that good reading (including good spiritual reading) is not a matter of figuring out a puzzle (or trying, by force, to pound some message out of a text). Literature is best read, especially at first, with attentive hearts and imaginations, letting the story carry us where it will. Only by doing so will our minds discover the material for later critical reflection – if that's something we wish to pursue. More importantly, maybe the best "message" is sometimes the graciously enlivened imagination, itself.

There's considerable debate these days about the best order in which to read the *Chronicles*. Perhaps most commonly used now (certainly indicated in currently published editions), is the re-arrangement into Narnian chronological order. I think this the least satisfying, unfortunately. It misses too much of Lewis' writing art, his literary structure and – if I may say so – the spiritual progression of the series.

A much better option is the original published order, which does, in my view, convey that art, structure, and progression. Here it is:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Prince Caspian
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
The Silver Chair
The Horse and His Boy
The Magician's Nephew
The Last Battle

But I propose what I view as an even better order (really just a slight adjustment of that of the first publication). This is the order in which Lewis, in his writing, actually **completed** each of the *Chronicles*. I would suggest that this is the most satisfying, effective reading order. And here it is:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Prince Caspian
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
The Horse and His Boy
The Silver Chair
The Magician's Nephew
The Last Battle

Notice that this order makes *The Horse and His Boy* the pivot story (as it also places *The Silver Chair* in the *Chronicles* concluding half). These issues, by the way are very well presented, along with other helpful material, in the new Introduction to Paul F. Ford's *Companion to Narnia*, revised [fifth] edition, published by Harper San Francisco (ISBN: 0060791276), which I'm happy to recommend as a whole, as an outstanding resource, as long – of course – as one has already read and experienced the stories, as such, first!

Now, please don't worry at all if you've read in other orders! This is simply my proposal for this time around (if you're in on a re-reading experience with the project). I'll ask our Attic bookstore to stock some additional copies for the *Chronicles* for sale, as well as Ford's *Companion*. If you are in on the undertaking, blessings. And even if you're not, blessings, as well. For all of us, may our spiritual travels be good ones.

Yours in Christ,

Adam †

In Time

Did you know there is a Doomsday Clock? Somewhere in the deep recesses of my mind I recall reading something about a clock whose hands for the last five years have been positioned at seven minutes to midnight. The clock is a symbol controlled by *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

What brought back this image of a giant clock posed so close to striking midnight, is a small blurb I saw in a paper in January. It seems as if the board for *The Bulletin* has decided to move the minute hand closer to midnight by two minutes. That will show the clock at five minutes till midnight. This decision reflects the nuclear threat posed by Iran, unsecured nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union and the increasing threat to our security from climate change. The clock has been in existence for 60 years. During those years it has been changed only 17 times.

When I was in high school, I remember a science teacher used the idea of 14 hours in explaining to the class the incredible amount of time required to make the world look like it looks today. Humans, the teacher told us, have only appeared in the last few minutes of the last hour.

Both of these images of time can help remind us of how much our Creator loves us. In spite of having been a part of creation for so very little time, in spite of all our misdeeds which constantly confirm our lack of concern for the earth and each other, God loves us. God pays attention to us. God cares about what we do, how we fell and what we think. In the giant scheme of all time, we are a quick pulse on the screen. But, we are the pulse God loves.

During the Lenten season, as I spend time taking stock, it's important for me to keep this in mind. It helps give me balance between those things which are damaged, soiled or incomplete in my life; those self-inflicted wounds, with the grace and love of my Creator. Wendy Lyons, in her poem "Candle Prayer", puts it this way.

O God of Love
 Look kindly upon the flame that is my soul.
 Though it glows like a tiny sapphire,
 Barely visible in the dark,
 It contains the life of light.
 It is precious to me,
 For in this infant flame I know you dwell,
 And as you choose to dwell in me,
 So also must I be precious in your sight...

Have a most blessed Lent.

Claudia †

"Candle Prayer", Wendy Lyons found in *Women's Uncommon Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured Celebrated*, ed. Gritz, et al. Morehouse Publishers, Harrisburg, PA 2000.

Adult Sunday School

The Divine Conspiracy

A Journey through the Sermon on the Mount

We conclude 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.

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

March 11: Conclusion of *The Divine Conspiracy*: "The Restoration of All Things"

The Dreamer of Narnia

An Introduction, for "Grown-ups," to The Chronicles

A three-week series, designed to support adult spiritual reading of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, viewing portions of the engaging, well-made documentary *C.S. Lewis: Dreamer of Narnia*, produced with the involvement of noted Lewis scholar Paul F. Ford; with discussion.

March 18: "Introduction", "Imagination", & "Sorrow"

March 25: "Evil" & "Longing"

April 1: "Love", "Beauty", & "Hope"

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

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

Confirmation Gifts for Sale

We have just received a shipment of Confirmation gifts for sale in The Attic. We are also adding tote bags to our supply of articles embroidered with the Episcopal Shield, and we have a limited number of gifts for St. Patrick's Day. We hope you will come in to see what's new, or just to visit!

The next Attic Book Sale will be in May, just in time to stock up for your summer reading. If you have books you no longer want, bring them in and we'll be glad to store them until the sale.

The submissions deadline for the April edition of The Call will be Tuesday, March 20.

Easter Memorials

You are invited to purchase Easter Lilies as memorials or thank offerings to be used to decorate the church for Easter services. The cost is \$20, and your memorial will be listed in the bulletin Easter Sunday. Please contact Nancy Mikesell at 782-4381 before March 20, and make checks payable to Altar Guild. Thank you.

Study Groups

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The great English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, speaking of *The Letter to the Ephesians*, pronounced it "the divinest composition of man" and remarked that "it embraced every doctrine of Christianity." Pondering our encounter with God's eternal purpose in Christ, *Ephesians* has inspired profound theological reflection, devotion – and controversy – through the centuries. Join us for this special Bible study. Father Adam will be the group leader. All are welcome.

Study Groups meet Tuesdays at 7:00pm or Thursdays at 12:45pm, after the mid-week Eucharist.

March 6 & 8: Introduction

March 13 & 15: Ephesians 1:1-14 "To God be the Glory"

March 20 & 22: Ephesians 1:15-23 "The Fullness of Christ"

March 27 & 29: Ephesians 2:1-10 "Raised up with Christ"

April 3 & 5: No Study Groups – Holy Week

Confirmation Classes

Youth: Mondays, 5:45pm

March 5: Growing in Prayer, Part Two

March 19: Personal Discernment, Callings, and Service

Adults: Saturday, 3:00pm

March 17: Personal Discernment, Callings, and Service

Confirmation

Saturday, April 15, 2007

3:00pm

Saint John's Episcopal Church
Logan, Utah

Episcopal Church Women

SAVE THE DATE !! Saturday, April 14, we are planning for a luncheon, a meeting, and a speaker. The theme is "Gardens, Herbs and God". Belle Schwarzenbach will be presenting a wonderful afternoon for all of us. More information will be provided as we get closer to the day – but mark the date on your calendar now, so you won't have a conflict and miss out. See you there.

Delores Ottley, ECW

Hymn of the Month

The editor would like to introduce a new regular feature in our newsletter. Straight from the Good Shepherd Choir, Cherie Wittwer, singer and member of the Diocesan Liturgy and Music Committee has graciously offered to give us some background and insight into one of the seasonal Hymns we will be singing each month. As many are aware, the music we sing each week is chosen to correspond with the church season, and the appointed scriptures from the Common Lectionary.

Many thanks to Cherie for drawing us more deeply into the music we share on Sundays.

The Glory of these Forty Days (#143)

Lent is an old English word for spring. The Season of Lent spans forty weekdays and six Sundays (not part of the forty days). Throughout the Bible, forty days is a traditional number for discipline, devotion, and preparation. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God for forty days. Elijah traveled forty days before beholding his vision in the cave; Nineveh

was given forty days to repent; Jesus spent forty days praying and fasting in the wilderness. **The glory of these forty days** was written in the sixth century by Pope Gregory I and translated from Latin to English by Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947) in *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Gregory, son of a wealthy Roman senator, sold his possessions and turned his home into a Benedictine monastery. He gave up his position as Prefect of the City of Rome to pursue monastic life. Gregory founded a total of seven monasteries and was also a missionary to England. Appointed Pope Pelagius II to be residential ambassador to the Imperial Court in Constantinople, Gregory wrote many volumes of commentary on the literal meaning of scripture and Christian doctrine. He was the first monk to be elected Pope. He is also well known for the collections of the melodies and chants which became known as *Gregorian Chant*. After his death in 604, Gregory was canonized and named a Doctor of the Church. Only he and Pope St. Leo I have been given the title GREAT.

The tune, "Erhalt uns, Herr", is a melody from *Geistliche Lieder* (1543) by Joseph Klug.

Cherie Wittwer

Member, Diocesan Liturgy and Music Committee

Diocesan Affirmation to be Held at Good Shepherd

"What Richard Hooker Has to Say to Today's Church"

Saturday, March 24

10am - 2pm

Richard Hooker is to Anglicanism what Aquinas is to Roman Catholicism, Luther is to Lutheranism, and Calvin is to the Reformed tradition. Hooker's writings may be less accessible, but they lay the foundations of Anglican self-understanding. After a year's in-depth study, the Rev. Adam Linton and Prof. Mark LeTourneau offer their discoveries about the relevance of Hooker's *Lawes* to today's church. You do not need prior acquaintance with Hooker to enjoy this lively, interactive discussion. For information about the workshop content, contact Good Shepherd Church at 801-392-8168. \$15 covers materials and lunch.

Lenten Offerings at Good Shepherd

“Too Hot to Handel”

Saturday, March 17

10:00am til Noon

A study of Handel's "Messiah" and the Scriptures on which it is based, presented by the Rev. Claudia Seiter. G.F. Handel wrote his best-known oratorio in 1741 in only 24 days. Come participate in an examination of this beautiful music in traditional and contemporary formats.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe THE EXTENDED VERSION

Sunday, March 18, 2007

4:00 to 6:30pm

Good Shepherd will be showing the Extended Version of the recent acclaimed film version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. A delightful – and fitting – way for individuals and families to spend a Sunday afternoon in Lent. Tuttle Hall. Light refreshments provided.

Revised Common Lectionary

March 4

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 11

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 18

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 25

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 1

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Acolyte Schedule for March

March 4

8:00 David Seiter

10:30 Server: Brandon Backus

Crucifer: Zachary Bray

Clergy Cross: Mckenzie Bray

Torches: Shayn Moss, Andrea Arnett

March 11

8:00 Dan Johnston

10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon

Crucifer: Mathew Hales

Clergy Cross: Patrick Campbell

Torches: Madeline Gale, Tori Skiver

March 18

8:00 Brenda Ruffier

10:30 Server: Alaina Kelly

Crucifer: Taryn Kelly

Clergy Cross: Brandon Backus

Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Andrea Arnett

March 25

8:00 Bonnie Taylor

10:30 Server: Robert Fairchild

Crucifer: Melissa Fairchild

Clergy Cross: Sarah Guyon

Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Tori Skiver

April 1

8:00 John Kunkel

10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon

Crucifer: Sarah Guyon

Clergy Cross: Patrick Campbell

Torches: Shayn Moss, Andrea Arnett

(Thank you for your service as an acolyte. If you cannot attend when you are scheduled, please try to find a replacement and give either Steve or Barbara a call to inform us of this change. Thanks again.)

We need more Acolytes! If you know anyone who might be interested, please have him or her contact Steve or Barbara.

Help Needed! Lay Eucharistic Ministers

This involves going out once a month to take communion to a shut-in. We have boxes ready for you and Linda has put together some very nice service booklets. Training is minimal and you can do this. Please volunteer for this very important and vital service to those who can not join us in church. Contact Deacon Nancy and thank you.

Thanks to everyone who provided information this month for The Call.

To submit an article for publication, please contact me by phone, email, or drop your submission in the drawer marked "The Call" in the church office. If writing is not your thing, just provide the particulars, and I'm happy to do the rest!

Betsy Guyon, editor
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745-0417

March 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. Amanda Coy, Roxanne Pierce, Matt Wallace
2. Stella Packard
5. Bertie Jessor
6. Tricia Dirks
7. Mason Cox
8. Russ LeBaron, Ruby Miller
18. Roberta Mauterer
19. Ian Harden
21. Helen Cox
23. Bill Bangert, Jacque Bergstrom
24. Betsy Guyon
27. James Gillespie
28. Sue Bauter, John Kunkel
30. Belle Schwarzenbach
31. Brian Davis

March 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)

1. Kevin & Lori Merchel
7. James & Bettye Gillespie
21. John & LaVon Gardiner

Children on Angels

I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold.
– Gregory, age 5

I hear angels all the time in my dreams. And I'm sticking with that no matter how many people tell me I'm crazy.
– Molly, age 8

Everybodys got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why but scientists are working on it.
– Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.
– Matthew, age 9

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.
– Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat but they drink milk from holy cows.
– Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The basic message is where you went wrong before you got dead.
– Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado.
– Regan, age 10

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it.
– Vicki, age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.
– Sarah, age 7