

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

MAY 2005

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

By the time most of you receive this, our parish will have begun Via Media. I am delighted with its high level of involvement, and trust that this will be an instrument of spiritual growth, both for individual participants and for us as a community. Blessings.

During this Eastertide, for my own personal reading, as I frequently do every year or so, I have started a focused journey with a particular writer. This involves (I hope) engaging, over a few months, with an author's work both broadly and in depth. I find such a process often spiritually significant – even when the material is far from “dripping with religion.” One becomes aware of new lines of sight.

This time for me, it is John Keats, one of the great English romantic poets. Our work with Gerard Manley Hopkins in Study Group re-invigorated my interest in poetry. So, I find myself working through Walter Jackson Bate's biography, sampling a few critical writings, dipping into Keats' letters, and – primarily, of course – reading the poems, especially the work of the remarkable year 1818-1819, near the end of his short life. As far as I am concerned, in terms of literary excellence and beauty, it simply doesn't get better than his final Great Odes (*Ode to Psyche*, *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, *Ode on Melancholy*, and *To Autumn*).

A theme of his, articulated most directly in his letters, that I find rather notable, is the idea of “Negative Capability.” By this he means, as he says, “being capable of being in uncertainties, Mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason.” The point here is not being down on fact and reason. The key words here, I believe, are “irritable reaching” – the militant (and, for us, futile) insistence on possessing absolute certainty. This is the mindset in which an individual is unable, in Keats' words, to “feel he has a personal identity unless he has made up his mind about everything.”

But this is often just we can find ourselves doing – isn't it? – simply equating our identity with whatever we think our opinions, feelings, desires are at any given time. This certainly helps explain our habitual anxious dogmatism, behind which it gets all-too-easy to hide. Perhaps a more authentic self-knowledge requires of us a greater measure of self-agnosticism. Perhaps getting to the knowledge that really **can** be ours requires admitting to the limitations and complexities in all our “knowing.”

None of this need be understood as advocating the attempt at living without center, without commitment. Maybe the gracious alternative to “empty” isn't “packed-full,” but **open**. Such thinking taps into traditional spiritual insight. Our real freedom is found in allowing God to be God – recognizing, to be sure, that such permission is certainly not God's need, but ours.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Adam †

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 - 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

From the Associate Rector

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

David and I enjoy traveling. But when the traveling takes us away from a Sunday at Good Shepherd, it can feel a little odd unless we are able to worship in another parish. It makes me wonder about those years as a young adult when I could find plenty of excuses not to drag myself out of bed on a Sunday morning and go to church.

Recently, I was conversing with a friend about how odd it feels when I don't get to church at least once a week. I told him it wasn't about being a priest either. It's about needing the time for worship and the people. My friend replied that he rarely goes to church anymore. "Sunday is my day off. I'm spiritual. I just don't need to be with a bunch of people to spend time with God."

Well, of course, on the one hand, my friend is right. Taking God in to our hearts means having God's presence with us all of the time. But worship time at church is different, and as Christ's children, it is what Christ would have us do.

When we come together, we are following one of the last directives Christ gave us while He was here on earth. The night before He was crucified, He gathered his disciples *together* and at a meal *together*. He said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

When the service begins, the anticipation rises. The crescendo is reached at the table that has been set for all of us. We are Christ's family being called to have a meal *together*.

Community: sharing our faith, our hesitations, our sorrows, our prayers, our accomplishments, our remorse, is what we do together. Sure, God is **with you** on that mountain hike, and is beside you as you read the morning paper. But what we're asked to do, is demonstrate that we know how to be **with God**. One of the most important ways we do this is by sharing in the Eucharist. God's presence in the bread and wine – our presence in worship time together. This is family.

Don't forget in the summer months ahead, the family you have here at Good Shepherd. We miss you when you don't show up for meal time.

Blessings

Claudia †

Attention! Attention! Attention!

Youth Ministries is now recruiting Sunday School teachers for the 2005-2006 program year. We are looking for energetic, dedicated people to fill 14 positions. There will be

a team of 2 teachers to teach for each class. The Sunday School has been reconfigured to offer 7 classes that will better serve our youth. Come join the Youth Ministries Team!

There will be two training sessions and a weekend retreat provided during the summer which will include teaching strategies and an overview of the curriculum and the Liturgical year. If you are an adult who is concerned about the quality of Christian Education in our parish, then we need you! Talk to Letitia or a member of the clergy if you are interested.

Sunday School for 2005-2006

Sunday School classes will be organized as follows:

Nursery; Pre-K / Kindergarten; 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-10; 11-12. There will be a team of two teachers for each class. Sunday School will now be offered every Sunday during the program year except for the Sundays after Christmas and Easter.

Recognition Sunday

If your child is graduating to the next level or has received an award for school or an extracurricular activity, we would like to recognize him/her on May 15. Call or email Letitia with the details and we will present the accomplishment at the 10:30 service. (Itsgoodshepherd@qwest.net or 479-4983)

Episcopal Youth

There will be an Episcopal Youth planning meeting May 15 during Sunday School. This meeting is for parents, children (7th -12th) and any other interested parties. We will rough out a calendar for next year, talk about the new day and time for activities as well as finalize Lake Powell attendance and plans.

Submissions deadline for the June edition of *The Call* is Friday, May 20. There will be no newsletter in July, so please be sure to include any July information with your articles next month. Thanks.

-Your Fearless Editor

bguyon801@msn.com or (801)745-0417

Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministries is pleased to announce the resurrection of Vacation Bible School! Come one, come all. This program will run the week of June 13 from 9:00am to Noon. Children ages 4 - 12 (and their adults) are invited to attend. We will be exploring the Book of Psalms through a series of learning stations. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the Youth Ministries board outside of Letitia's office. There will be a \$10 registration fee and the program will be open to the public to support the Via Media philosophy.

Adult Sunday School

We continue our conversations on the award-winning PBS series, *The Question of God*. Dr. Armand Nicholi compares and contrasts the views of Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis. Please join us in Tuttle Hall at 9:30 on Sundays. The schedule is as follows:

May 1	Session 14: <i>Suffering and Death</i> , Part A
May 8	Session 15: <i>Suffering and Death</i> , Part B
May 15	A Look at Next Year's Sunday School

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

United Thank Offering

UTO INGATHERING (MAY 22, 2005)

Please mark your calendars as we will be gathering up our UTO boxes on May 22, 2005. Because this important function of our congregation is about more than just tossing a few coins in a little blue box, I'd like to take a moment to share a thoughtful perspective by John Fischer. I was reminded a few nights ago of this devotion he wrote when our little 7-year-old Tori said to me, "I had to end my prayer kind of quickly tonight, Mom, because I was going to fall asleep. I would never want to fall asleep while I'm talking to God!" Perhaps you will keep this perspective in mind when you offer your prayers of thanks.

"Prayer Overdrive" by John Fischer

The Psalms are full of praise to God, and almost every time there is a "Praise the Lord..." "Bless the Lord..." or "Give thanks..." there is something specific for which the honor is due. There are always reasons for the praise.

This is important to remember lest we fall into what I call "prayer overdrive," or praying without really thinking about what we are saying. I can only talk about this because I have caught myself doing it too many times.

"I will pray in the spirit, and I will pray in words I understand," Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:15 (NLT). We need to understand the words we are praying and why we are praising God.

Ever notice how much harder it is to pray out loud than to pray quietly in your mind? When I pray out loud, I have to think about my words. I hear myself praying and I am more apt to catch myself being lazy in my thinking. Usually others are listening when I pray out loud and I am aware of that. Will my prayer make sense to them? I've also found it useful to pray out loud even when I'm by myself as a way of staying alert. Thoughts can be sloppy. I can start praying in my mind and then go off somewhere else in my thoughts and forget entirely that I have evoked the presence of the eternal wise God.

If you love someone you engage that person in conversation. You pay attention to what they say and what you say back. To be physically present during a conversation and not engage your mind in it is nothing short of rude and arrogant. If we're not careful, our worship can turn into what Jesus calls "babbling on and on..." thinking our prayers will be answered by repeating them over and over again (Matthew 6:7 NLT). But that's not a conversation; that's superstition. Worship is a conversation based on a relationship.

We need to pay attention to our praise.

Tricia Dirks
UTO Representative

The Attic

Please mark your calendars and begin weeding out your bookshelves to make room for some great summer reading. The Attic is having a **Book Sale on Sunday, May 15**. Donations for the sale are now being accepted. Bring your used books to the church before May 14.

May 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)

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|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Carlisle LeBarron, SueAnn Thomas | 17. Chip Wilde |
| 3. Bob Hall | 25. Julius Lloyd |
| 4. Nancy Arnett | 26. Conor Cross |
| 6. Dyrk Farr | 28. Tim Wilde |
| 13. Steve Greenleaf | |
| 14. Jack Olearain | |

May Anniversaries...

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. Amen (BCP)

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|------------------------------|
| 4. Bob & Lucy Bevan |
| 9. Dan & JoEllen Parrish |
| 20. Jim & Glenna Hard |
| 22. Rick & Carolyn Anderson |
| 25. Jim & Roxanne Pierce |
| 27. Alex & Madeline McDonald |

The Angels

The Angels Ministry has continued to increase during 2005. So far this year, two birthday gifts and nine Valentine gifts were delivered to our shut-in friends and to others who were ill or had special needs. In addition, over thirty cards were sent for various occasions. Thirteen Easter baskets containing cards, candy, stuffed bunnies, and Belle Schwarzenbach's special Ukrainian Easter Eggs were delivered to shut-ins by members of the clergy and the LEMs. Many thanks to Belle for donating her time and talents. Also, a special thank you to Amy Kees who decorated the Easter gift bags and assembled the Easter baskets.

On February 26, Courtney Thornesbury and Letitia Teneau-Sword coordinated a work party with the Episcopal Youth to pack overseas care packages for seven service men and for Erin Kenny who is serving with the Peace Corps in

Dili East Timor. We have heard from several family members that the packages were received and appreciated. We received many donated items to be included in the boxes, and also \$203 in cash donations to cover postage and additional items. Thank you so much to everyone who donated, and a special thanks to Courtney and Letitia for their time and efforts. We have had no requests for assistance with either food supplies or meals so far this year. Our pantry is still well stocked.

– Nancy Mikesell

Acolyte Schedule - May 2005

May 1

8:00 John Kunkel
10:30 Server: Daniel Wilde
 Crucifer: Alex Bray
 Clergy Cross: Rachel Hargis
 Torches: Zachary Bray, McKensie Bray
 Riley Thomas, Dani Hall

May 8

8:00 Dan Johnston
10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon
 Crucifer: Jeffery Hales
 Clergy Cross: Sarah Guyon
 Torches: Matthew Hales, Conor Lay
 Dani Hall, Samantha Hall

May 15

8:00 Bonnie Taylor
10:30 Server: Ethan Roberts
 Crucifer: Robert Fairchild
 Clergy Cross: Natalie Fairchild
 Torches: Alexx Unsworth, Sarriya Hill
 Nolan Peters, Sara Mojazza

May 22

8:00 David Seiter
10:30 Server: Amy Kees
 Crucifer: Alex Bray
 Clergy Cross: Emily Lloyd
 Torches: Tori Skiver, Tiffany Arnett
 Zachary Bray, McKenzie Bray

May 29

8:00 Letitia Teneau-Sword
10:30 Server: Haylee Hennessy
 Crucifer: Alex Bray
 Clergy Cross: Emily Lloyd
 Torches: Zachary Bray, McKenzie Bray
 Dani Hall, Samantha Hall

Community of Hope

This is a program to train volunteer lay chaplains based on Benedictine spirituality and equipping interested persons to serve in pastoral care ministries. This could include outreach to our own parish such as to shut-ins, to those hospitalized, those in local jails and to local assisted living centers and nursing homes. Training is for 14 weeks and would be held in Salt Lake City where they are currently setting up this ministry at St. Marks. If anyone from Good Shepherd is interested in this ministry, please contact me. This is an excellent program for pastoral care ministry and is a great opportunity for putting your faith into action.

– Deacon Nancy

Reflections on Harmony

The following is an excerpt from *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, Book V, chapter xxxviii, section 1 by Richard Hooker (1554-1600).

Touching musical harmony whether by instrument or voice, it being but of high and low in sounds a due proportionable disposition, such notwithstanding is the force thereof, and so pleasing effects it hath in that very part of man which is most divine, that some have been thereby induced to think that the soul itself is – or hath in it – harmony.

...We are the hearing of some more inclined unto sorrow and heaviness;
of some more mollified and softened in mind;
one kind apter to stay and settle us, another to move and stir our affections;
there is that draweth to a marvelous grave and sober mediocrity,
there is also that carrieth as it were into ecstasies, filling the mind with an heavenly joy and for the time in a manner severing it from the body.

So...the very harmony of sounds being framed in due sort and carried from the ear to the spiritual faculties of our souls,
is by a native puissance and efficacy greatly available to bring to a perfect temper whatsoever there is troubled, apt as well to quicken the spirits as to allay that which is too eager,
sovereign against melancholy and despair,
forcible to draw forth tears of devotion if the mind be such as can yield them,
able to move and to moderate all affections.

Memorial Day - Lake Powell

Greetings from St. George. The now 4th yearly Good Shepherd Lake Powell Memorial Day Weekend is alive and well. The picnic with St. Davids and Grace Church also participating will be Sunday, May 29. The rest of the activities will start Friday afternoon, May 27 and end after breakfast on Monday, May 30. Anyone who thinks they may be coming, please email me at ldeggert@msn.com and I can get more information to you.

Joan and Larry Eggert

Opera for Youth Impact

Così fan tutte ossia la scuola degli amanti, loosely translated as “There’re All Like That, The School for Lovers” is a non-opera lover’s opera featuring some of Mozart’s best music. Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the plot line begins with ‘one cynical bachelor who believes women are fickle, two young arduous gentlemen who believe in the absolute faithfulness of love, add a preposterous wager to see which view is correct, and stir. What results is a hilarious concoction of some of Mozart’s most beautiful music, complete mayhem and, in the end, affirmation of true love.’ (Utah Opera program notes)

You are invited to a performance of Mozart’s comic opera:

Così fan tutte
Sunday, May 22 at 2:00pm
Capitol Theater
Salt Lake City

Proceeds to benefit
Episcopal Community Services’
Youth Impact

Reserve early: Deadline is May 4

Contact: Jessica Hatch at (801) 521-4025

Email: jhatchecs@qwest.net

or complete a form available in the office at Good Shepherd