

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

JUNE / JULY 2005

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

Traditional Christian worship, certainly including that of the Episcopal Church, involves a fair amount of repetition. To be sure, today's service texts are much more variable than those found in earlier editions of *The Book of Common Prayer*. However, we still have very stable liturgical patterns, as well as words used often enough to be memorized by many. Yet this does not mean that they need be either boring or emptied of meaning.

We never engage the same text in exactly the same way. Sometimes we may feel more emotionally connected to the words, and at other times, their use seems more merely formulaic. In the course of our spiritual journeys, the same words can speak to us very differently. Within a corporate experience, this reality is broadened even more. An individual may have sense of nourishment, inspiration, and gift in some portion of the service that for another feels like dead wood – *and vice versa*. “The wind blows where it wills.” (John 3:8, *Revised English Bible*) Rather than leading us to captivating infatuation with our own preferences (such as they are at any given time), this reality should lead us to humility and delight before God's workings. Who knows? Perhaps a text that we have had to bear with at one point in our life may be remembered or uttered as a testimony of hope on our deathbeds.

Like drops of rain falling gently on thirsty soil, the words of worship can slowly permeate our

spirits. With acceptance of ourselves and others, such words do not need to be flooding, but formative. The capacity of waiting patiently (but not passively) to see where God is leading us on the adventure of faith is an important quality of authentic spirituality.

To be sure, because they are human, our words must be limited. Yet, in mercy, God has chosen them as instruments of grace. And is not one of the names of the Eternal and Incarnate Son, precisely, the *Word*? (John 1:1,14) Perhaps, then, we should not be so surprised that language, an important human distinctive, should also be a key means of divine communion.

May our words, truly, be bearers of the Word.

Blessings.

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).

Summer Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 - noon.

Phone: 392-8168

Fax: 627-7026

Email: goodshepherd -ut@qwest.net

Website: www.goodshepherdogden.org

From the Associate Rector

Actions Louder Than Words

Like many of you, I wear a ring that bears the design of the Episcopal Shield. Because of its shape, it is sometimes mistaken for a fraternal ring, or as a CTR ring (the Mormon "Choose the Right" symbol). Or, occasionally it is mistaken for a ring containing the initials "WWJD", (What Would Jesus Do?). So, it did not surprise me when a new teacher asked me if she could look more closely at my "CTR" ring. I offered my hand, while gently explaining the symbol she was seeing.

"Choose the Right," "What Would Jesus Do?" I have no doubt that these phrases, and others like them, have often served as positive reminders when it is time to make a decision. But I believe that when we say these phrases, we are frequently asking not, "What Would Jesus Do?" but rather, "What Would Jesus Say?". Quoting scripture and verse is an easy way of pouncing on those we may disagree with.

In a time of so many uncertainties (pick any day for the last million years), knowing the final word, the definitive statement, being told exactly what to do or think, sounds pretty good. After all, whether we're discussing politics or religion, sports or the arts, books or movies, sooner or later, someone is going to make their point by smacking us on the side of the head with scripture. If the quoted verse is from Jesus, then the argument carries plenty of ammunition, and the person making the quote gains a tremendous advantage over the poor schmuck who mistakenly thought the conversation was really just about politics, religion, or the arts, and didn't realize their immortal soul was on the line.

Certainly there is some solid ground for this approach. Jesus often did say exactly what He meant. But more often, Jesus talks off subject, or answers a question with a question. For example, He talks about giving glory to God when He is asked about a coin. "Who do you say that I am?" He asks His disciples when they ask who He is. Of course, Jesus often spoke in parables as well. When we want to know about people and what we should do, Jesus speaks about fruit, vineyards, and pearls.

More frequently than we might like, Jesus doesn't say anything. In the Gospels, He remains silent to many of our questions. Jesus is not necessarily using this silence as a sign of agreement with traditions or actions. Rather, His reticence seems to be based on His knowing that we are not always asking what we want to ask, or doing what we need to do. So, instead of dictating to us by spelling everything out for us, Jesus uses His slight remarks, cryptic sayings, and His silence as a way to confront us so we will re-examine what we want, who we are, and what we should do with the freedom God has given us to make decisions.

I believe Jesus is modeling something very important for us. "Stop talking and start doing," He might say. "Don't tell me you are my disciple, *act* upon it."

It's easier to talk about what we think Jesus would do (or for that matter, to write about it), than to do it. Jesus doesn't always tell us *what* to do about a lot of things. But He does tell us *how* to do everything. With Love. Love for God. Love for each other. So, I'm going to offer a new slogan for the next phase in religious jewelry, "AIGL" "Am I Giving Love?" Can somebody make me a ring?

Blessings

Claudia †

P.S. This summer is a great time to become familiar with a different Eucharist service. If you have never tried the Saturday service, or the 8:00am service, come participate in a different Eucharist experience. Or try the Saturday service before you head out for that Sunday picnic or family reunion. Don't worry, God will still recognize you even if you're in shorts instead of a suit.

Finance Committee Reports

Remember that as we approach the summer months the church's expenses continue unabated. If possible, keep your pledge current.

Through March:	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Budgeted Income	79,052	74,482
Total Expenses	79,052	81,012

Most of the shortfall on the income side represents pledges that are not current.

On the expense side there are several factors:

Utilities are always higher in the winter months

Several items have already used the entire year's budget and will require no additional spending.

– Alan Joslyn

Finance Committee Chariman

Building & Grounds Update

Good news. We like to think our major plumbing problems are in the past. All of the 100-year-old underground piping has been capped after major leaking, and we have new easy-access copper piping. Hot water has been restored to the downstairs restrooms and the drinking fountain no longer shoots water at unsuspecting drinkers.

Chip Wilde and Dan Johnston were our faithful workers one rainy Saturday morning to drill holes in the Luxan covers protecting our stained glass windows. We noticed the windows were buckling in spots due to trapped heat and the small holes are expected to relieve the pressure. One of our south windows will have to be removed this summer for repair. We can be grateful to Robert Kelley who crafted the windows in our new narthex doors for his attention and advice.

Summer reminds us that power bills can soar with air conditioning. The past two summer charges have been reasonable thanks to Linda's watchfulness during the week, and our care on Sundays to keep doors closed during services and lights turned off when not in use throughout the building.

–Diane Lowe

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.

Episcopal Youth June Events

Service project: Antelope Island – June 11

We will meet at Good Shepherd at 9:00am and carpool out to Ladyfinger Point. The morning will be spent cleaning and beautifying. After working hard, we will reward ourselves with a picnic lunch and exploration of the rest of the park. Bring gloves, water, and appropriate clothing (we will be walking through vegetation and on dirt / pebble trails). Put on sunscreen before you leave your house and bring some with you for re-application.

Activity: Raptor's Game – June 27

We will meet at Good Shepherd at 6:45 and then walk over to Lindquist Field. Invite your friends! It would be nice if we could have a large group. Bring money if you want treats while at the ballpark.

More on Vacation Bible School

“Celebrate the Psalms” is our theme this year. Join us for a fun, hands-on curriculum. Older high school students and adults are needed to run the group activities and the “celebration stations”. Invite your neighbors and child's friends; this program is open to the public.

Episcopal Youth July Event

We will be going on a service project to Grace Episcopal Church in St. George July 8 - 10, 2005.

July 8 – Leave Ogden in the morning. Hit the outlet malls and dine out. Sleep at Grace.

July 9 – Cook and eat breakfast at Grace. Begin work by 7:30am. Spend the afternoon in Zion. Go to the Eggert's for swimming, movies, and BBQ. Sleep at Grace.

July 10 – Cook and eat breakfast at Grace. Go to church @ 8:00 am. Leave for Ogden after service.

It would be great to take a large group. The service project will involve both yard and building maintenance. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, a pillow, toiletries, a swimsuit and clothes appropriate for work and hiking.

Plans need to be finalized by June 30. Call or e-mail the church to sign up.

ECW Bazaar Date Set

We have a date for this year's ECW church bazaar. **October 29, 2005.** I know that seems a long time off – and it does give us some space on the calendar for the necessary preparations. We will be having an ECW meeting on August 13 – plan to come and join us – we'll have lunch and then work on some projects for the bazaar.

You will be hearing more from the bazaar chairladies – about all the plans for this year – but here are some things to think about in advance. Do you have jam jars that can be used for the preserves we sell? Let me know and I'll pick them up. Lori Linton has a HUGE apricot tree – so the jam

of choice this year will probably be apricot. If you have other fruit that you would like to contribute to our efforts for some nice jams and jellies – let me know about it – and we'll try to get to it while it is ripe.

Summer is coming and we will all be trying to spend time in the garden, traveling and playing golf so there are no plans for an ECW meeting in June or July. But, after you've had a chance to rest and relax – we'll see you in August.

Thanks,
Delores Ottley
ECW President

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

Please note: The Attic will be closed during July and August.

Recognition Sunday

On May 15, several members of our parish were recognized for their many accomplishments. Many of our Acolytes were awarded their silver and gold crosses for their service. Thanks to all.

Also mentioned were the following young people, all of whom have done such a great job, and have such exciting things to look forward to.

College Graduation:

Travis Otten – Graduating from Fordham University Law School with a Juris Doctorate degree. He intends to take the New York Bar exam in July 2005.

High School Graduation:

Adam Otten – Graduating from Rowland Hall - St. Mark's High School and becoming a member of the class of 2009 at the United States Air Force Academy.

Tim Wilde – Graduating from Ogden High School and becoming a member of the class of 2009 at the United States Air Force Academy.

Annette LeTourneau – Graduating from Christian Heritage High School and entering the University of Utah in August of 2005.

Patrick Linton – Graduating from Ogden High School and entering the United States Navy in November of 2005.

Stephen Harden – Graduating from Bonneville High School and entering Weber State University in August of 2005.

Other Accomplishments:

Hope Linton – Starting as a freshman at Ogden High School in August of 2005.

Alexandra Sword – Elected as FCCLA officer for 2005-06 at Bonneville High School.

Renee Merchel – Starting as a sophomore at Bonneville High School in August of 2005. Selected as a member of the Lakettes for 2005-06 at Bonneville High School.

Sarah Guyon – Traveled to Denver, one of 23 cities on a national audition tour, and was selected to participate in a five-week summer intensive with the Boston Ballet's "DanceLab" for students age 12-15.

Amy Kees – Received 2 community service awards for school. She also received a Superior rating for her school science fair and an Excellent rating at the State science fair.

Congratulations to all and best of luck in all you do!

Social Committee is Forming

With encouragement from the Vestry, Billie and Tim Wilson have agreed to organize a social committee. We have a few parishioners that have offered to join the committee and we are looking for an additional four to six people who would like to help plan social activities for the parish. We would like to have members from different generations so we can plan a variety of activities that may appeal to a range of interests. We also

welcome suggestions from everyone regarding activities in which they would actively participate.

Please contact Billie and Tim in person or at 546-1531.

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)

June

1. Brianna Thornsbury
4. Alex McDonald
5. Brendan Stump
7. Robert Thornsbury
8. Liz Brooks, LaVon Gardiner
11. Annette LeTourneau
14. Amy Kees
15. Jodi Patterson
16. Debra Davis, Patrick Clark
20. Haylee Hennessy
23. Sarah Jones
27. Jane Bauter
29. Sophie Clark, Connie Janis, Karyn Johnston
30. David Sanchez

July

5. June Wallen
6. Grace Johnston
7. Jock Glidden
10. Emily Lloyd
11. Sarah Guyon
15. Devin Greenleaf, Nolan Peters, Karen Poggemeyer
16. Nancy Henthorne
18. Jenifer Fairchild, Sarah LeTourneau, Dean Packard
19. Nate Wallace
21. Steve Bauter
22. Jan Hall
24. Diane Lowe
27. Donna Nelson
- 28 Eric Merchel

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)

June

3. Tim & Billie Wilson
4. Julius & Marion Lloyd
5. Dan & Laura Johnston, Mark & Georgette LeTourneau
7. Gary & Ginny Crolla, Pete & Karen Poggemeyer
11. Chris & Ashley Cross
13. Alan & Mary Joslyn
19. John & Jody Coy, Patrick & Laura Clark
20. Chip & Barbara Wilde
24. David & Claudia Seiter

July

4. Barry & Judy Banks
 8. James & Nancy Mikesell
 12. Dick & Diane Lowe
 19. Robert & Courtney Thornsbury
 23. Adam & Lori Linton
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**Good Shepherd
 Church League Softball**
 Come join us at the Weber
 County Fairgrounds on Thursdays
 through June
 Players always needed
 Loud enthusiastic fans encouraged
 Game schedule posted in Tuttle Hall
 Contact Matt Otten for details

**Have a great
 summer**