

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

OCTOBER 2005

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

Our program year has begun, and I'm glad to say that it shows all signs of being a lively adventure. I invite your creative participation. In Sunday School classes, Study Group sessions, Via Media, Parish ministries in all their variety, and fellowship with one another God gives us gracious opportunities to learn and grow.

Our life in faith is not passive; what we are able to receive is bound up with our own responsive investment. But "responsive" is a key word here. God is – and remains – the first, last, and ultimate Giver. This is why our common worship lies at the heart of all that we do and all that we are as a community of faith. Crowded schedules present hard choices these days for all of us. We find ourselves often spread out too thin, don't we? But I remember something that a friend of mine told me some years ago, "Remember, Adam, that you can get more done in six days than in seven." Perhaps an important part of the reason that existence seems so hectic now is that, personally, as families, and as a culture, we have forgotten the concept of Sabbath. Maybe it's time to remember. So I'd encourage us to keep in mind that Christians have traditionally understood that we have a prior commitment for Sunday (or Sunday-in-anticipation if one attends the Saturday evening Eucharist!).

What we get out of coming church, in the long run, is closely related to regularity of attendance. This remains true for those folks who are simply unable to participate every week-end. Good Shepherd is a regional parish, drawing people from a large area in Utah north of Salt Lake City. But the concept holds. Keeping to worship, even through spiritual dry spells, even when we don't "feel" like it, even when we're too busy, is an essential part of the structure of our Christian journey.

I would also highlight one of what I consider the gems of our Parish life: the Thursday mid-day Eucharist, at 12:15 p.m. This is a quiet, simple (and comparatively short) service, with a truly special quality. It includes a brief meditation, as well as healing prayers for ourselves and others. There's

never a large crowd, to be sure, but I'd like to see it become a resource of which we take more advantage.

In the way of other news to share, I'm sure that most of us have noticed our somewhat higher profile in the local newspapers these days. It is well known that Good Shepherd, over the last few years has been in conversation with Ogden City about acquiring land to the direct east of our facility. We've kept involved in many forums and settings. We are hoping that we will shortly be able to enter into the negotiations to finalize this once in a century opportunity. Feel free to ask questions – of me, our Wardens Sandra Corp and Matt Otten, and our Property Acquisition Committee Chair Lucy Stretch.

Lastly, I would mention the organizational meeting for Confirmation classes on Monday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m. We'll meet in the Parlor. This meeting will be for potential participants both adult and youth. Parents of youth are encouraged to attend, if possible.

In all our journeys, both personal and corporate, may God continue to bless us in grace.

Yours in 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 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

Shimmer of Light

I was freshening the guest room the other day and opened the closet to give a quick inspection to the contents. As I did, my eye caught a shimmer of light from the framed window sitting in the rear of that closet. It's one of the old, lovely windows that were a part of the Good Shepherd chapel before the stained glass appeared. Smaller portions of sister windows now hang in our church parlor.

Before her death, Thelma Ellis, our wonderful church historian, made David and me promise to go to the Diocesan Office in Salt Lake and pick this window up from storage. My hope is, that someday it will grace a children's chapel in our church and help tie the old to the new – those who came before to those just beginning. I haven't looked at this window in some time. So I brought it into the light.

As I dusted the glass, I couldn't help but wonder about the hands that first formed its patterns and painted its design. Those hands had treated each piece of glass with care and had taken pride in the simple beauty of the black and white pattern and lovely blue accents.

A design in a window, formed with the intention of bringing glory to God. After all the years since it was made, that still remains the window's purpose.

In the course of living, it is easy to dismiss the idea that we too have been formed for the same purpose as that window. Formed by our Creator with the intention of bringing glory to God. We can dismiss the promise that each of us carries in ourselves. A promise of beauty and light which can reflect God's love. We don't seem to have any trouble seeing each other's failings, but catching the light that shines in each other seems almost accidental – like accidentally seeing the glimmer off of an old window stored in the back of a closet.

Just like that old window pane, we are fragile, but our intention, our purpose, remains the same. We are meant to bring glory to God. Whether the patterns of our hearts are simple or elaborate, whether the colors we offer the world are singular or brilliant, the light of God's love reflects through us. How's your window doing? Are the patterns and colors the Creator placed in you as beautiful and clear as they should be? I must admit, that my own pieces of glass are often in need of dusting. They are also more fragile than I want to consider. What reflection of God's love is shining through my window? If others look through my patterns and colors, will God's glory be shining through to them?

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”
(Ephesians 5:14)

Blessings †
Claudia

Episcopal Youth

We will be starting our activities directly after church and would like to start as close to 12:00 as possible. We need families to provide meals and, sometimes, transportation to activities.

October 9, 2005

We will be putting together donated items into care packages for soldiers overseas. Come join us for a meal and then put together these greatly appreciated care packages. Candy, toiletries, magazines, books, short notes of appreciation, etc. are all part of the effort.

October 21-23, 2005

Another trip to St. George to be with the wonderful folks at Grace Episcopal Church. We will be doing grounds work again this time (raking leaves and pruning roses). In addition, we will have the opportunity to explore Snow Canyon or Zion. The Eggert pool is also part of the action, which was a great activity last time. If anyone wants to hit the outlet mall, we can do that, too. We will need help with transportation on this one. The cost of gas will be covered through the Episcopal Youth budget. Please call or e-mail Letitia soon if you intend to go.

Sunday School

We will be following a regular schedule throughout the month of October.

The **Children's Eucharist** will be October 9 with Mother Claudia.

Please take a minute to thank our hardworking Sunday School teachers. They are an amazing group of people who work hard to keep the Sunday School experience meaningful and fun.

Adult Sunday School

“Dealing with the Bible; Letting the Bible Deal with Us”

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Sundays, 9:30 to 10:15am, Tuttle Hall

October 2: Interpretation of Interpretations? Human texts; Divine messages

October 9: How did we get this thing called “The Bible”? [with Small Groups]

October 16: Video and discussion: “The Battle for the Language of the Bible,” Part I

October 23: Video and discussion: “The Battle for the Language of the Bible”, Part II

October 30: Why do Christians have what they call an “Old Testament”?

Study Groups

All are welcome to join us as we discuss Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* – a highly controversial work of fiction which forced him into exile after Iran's political and religious leader the Ayatollah Khomeini passed down a death sentence, alleging the work blasphemes the Koran and the prophet Muhammad. Though the edict has been lifted, the book is banned in many Muslim countries, and Rushdie claims his life remains in danger.

Study Groups meet on Tuesdays at 7:00pm or on Thursdays after the mid-day Eucharist. The sessions are interchangeable, and we hope you'll join us for some undoubtedly lively discussion. Copies of the book are available for purchase in The Attic.

October 4 & 6: Chapter II, “Mahound”
 October 11 & 13: Chapter III, “Ellowen Deeowen”
 October 18 & 20: Chapter IV, “Ayesha”
 October 25 & 27: Chapter V, “A City Visible but Unseen”
 November 1 & 3: Chapter VI, “Return to Jahilia”

Come celebrate

The Rev. Adam Linton's
& The Rev. Pete Poggemeyer's

25 years of ministry

let's thank them for their service

October 7
6:30 - 9:30pm

Church of the good shepherd
2374 grant avenue, ogden

A light buffet will be served

The Episcopal Church Women's Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, October 29

10am to 3pm

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

featuring

Hand-Made Gifts & Baked Goods
 The Tea Room
 What-Not, Why-Not Treasure Adventure
 The Bottle Table
 Halloween Costume Contest at Noon
 Magic Show

Donations of hand-crafted goodies of all sorts are welcome anytime prior to Saturday. Those with “white elephant” new or gently used items for the Treasure Adventure should drop them off in the foyer, or contact Jan Shanklin (782-2241). If you know of anyone who would like their own table, please contact Linda in the church office. Bring the family and come join the fun!

Angels' Pantry

The Angels' Pantry was established to provide groceries for members of the parish who need temporary assistance and are referred by the clergy. In the past, we have had an overwhelming response to our requests for donations of non-perishable items. As a result, we have been able to help many individuals and families.

We now need items to re-stock the pantry. We appreciate donations of nutritious non-perishable items with a reasonably long shelf life. Items especially needed are: canned chili, canned soups, cereal, oatmeal, individually boxed raisins, powdered milk, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, other pastas, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna or other canned meats, peanut butter, jelly or jam, and any other items a family or individual might need. Both family-size and small items for single individuals are appreciated.

If you would like to donate any items, please mark them for the Angels' Pantry and bring them to the church. If you have items you would like picked up, please call the church office at 39268, Nancy Mikesell at 782-4381, or Sherrie Bangert at 475-7176. Donations of cash to be used for perishable items are always appreciated. Thank you again to all of you who always support us so generously.

Different Parts; Different Hearts

Why do we all have different passions? So everything that's supposed to get done will get done.

Sometimes we get overwhelmed because we are constantly exposed to people with various passions for service, and when they represent their cause, they are so committed to that which has captured them that we feel guilty for not sharing their zeal. We seem indifferent in comparison.

When I was in college, we had chapel every day and almost every day we heard a message from someone who had a passion for some particular ministry. They were usually in some ways recruiting us for service, whether it was in missions, or in the church, or in society, or among the poor. It was overwhelming, and often frustrating, because everyone made every concern sound like the only thing any caring person would support.

The same thing happens in our churches. Sometimes we feel guilt because we don't have the same passion as the last person who talked about missions, or abortion, or the homeless, or marriage, or singleness, or men's ministry, or AIDS prevention, or prisons, or evangelism, or the military. What we forget is that there are so many needs because there are so many of us to meet them. We aren't supposed to get our bell rung by every appeal that comes by. We are a body made up of different parts and different hearts; we don't have to all be moved by the same issues and needs.

This is where the concept and the practical nature of spiritual gifts come in. There are a variety of gifts and there are a variety of ministries, but the same Lord working in all and through all. No one has to do everything; no one can. It is up to us to find out where we fit and what God put us here to do. Soon you will be just as passionate about something because it's your thing. This is the way it's supposed to be. We only get frustrated when we forget this and try to take on everything, or get so overwhelmed that we take on nothing at all.

All of this should just make us marvel at the wisdom of God even more. He's designed us all with different abilities and different interests so that we are not only good at what we do, we do not have to be frustrated or depressed over what we aren't good at. When we all do our part in the body of Christ, everyone gets a job, everyone gets honored and everyone's important. That's the way it's supposed to be.

By John Fisher [*The Purpose Driven Life*]
(submitted by Belle Schwarzenbach)

Thursday Eucharist and Healing Service

Having been asked to write a bit about our service... To me it is a quiet time to really absorb the beautiful phrases of the Eucharist; the healing and intercessory prayers make the time one of sharing with others, known and unknown to

us, such words of help and comfort. It is a half hour I look forward to each week.

-Diane Lowe

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

October 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. Meghan Gill
2. Tiffany Arnett, Richard Brown
5. Mattie Wilson
8. Jamie Mansfield
9. Brandon Lemings
10. Adrienne Mansfield
11. Adam Linton
13. Dorothy Paine
16. Aaron Anderson, Sandy Moss
17. John Gardiner, Nancy Young
23. Tom Clarke
26. Curtis Pierce, Brad Lowe
27. Gerry Clute
28. Pete Poggemeyer
31. Alex Coy, Adam Otten

October 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)

2. Jan & Gerry Clute
5. Jerry & Nancy Groshart
10. Ron & Julia Ingoldsby
29. Charles & Shirley Campbell