

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

NOVEMBER 2004

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

"Called to Remembrance: A Thanksgiving Sermon"

Deuteronomy 8:1-3, 6-10, 17-20

James 1:17-18, 21-27

Matthew 6:25-33

Moses tells the people of God, as they prepare to enter the promised land, "Remember the long way that the Lord our God has led you these forty years in the wilderness." Remembrance of their journey would keep the people from the presumption of self-sufficiency.

In such a results-oriented society as ours, perhaps this exhortation is hard to understand. After arrival at a goal, why should one want to remember the long way it took to get there? The immediate, bottom line mentality doesn't deal comfortably with a process of becoming. Ambiguities – about ourselves, our communities, and our world – are often uncomfortable. It is less intimidating to work with simple categories. One dimensional rejections or optimisms like about easy at hand. The insistence that this is now "the best of all possible worlds" can only be maintained from comparatively comfortable circumstances. These can last only so long in human life. Sooner or later, artificial optimisms turn cynical.

However, our existence is not based on the conditions we are able to manage. We live, "not be by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3) In faith, it is promised that the One who is the Word is near us, on our lips and in our heart. (Romans 10:8) Nevertheless, our journey sometimes takes us through desert places.

We are to remember the long way in which God leads us. Grateful remembrance should be able to acknowledge that this is a world in which brokenness, contradictions, and injustice exist. Certainly, such an acknowledgment shouldn't have to be a "spoiler." Thanksgiving is perhaps the most gracious of our national days of remembrance. Our ability to make a positive difference for the world may very well rest on

our capacity for gratitude. **Of course**, we ought to be concerned that our stewardship of earth's gifts be just. However, being able to rejoice in beauty – being able to give thanks for blessings is a key part of our mission as Christians. We don't need to try to explain away difficult circumstances to affirm that a thankful spirit changes how we see things.

The journey of faith presses toward its goal. "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves." (Romans 8:22-23a) Somehow, paradoxically, faith brings together longing and peace. Godly desire leads us **through**, not around the present moment. Religious escapism might have more in common with hedonism than one might immediately suspect. In Christ, we are freed up to authentic gratitude. We do not need to be ruled by anxiety.

No, this is not "the best of all possible worlds." We are called to serve so that the will of God be done. Unanswered questions remain. In faith, however, it becomes possible to appreciate Lady Julian's saying, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." (Showings, ch. 27 [Revelation 13], long text) It is no sentimentality when we affirm that the acquisition of the habit of gratitude is a key part of spiritual discipline.

I have personally suspected that a number of well-intentioned movements which have sought to do the work of justice have been far less effective than hoped because they became too infatuated with their own sense of alienation, and too little grounded in a positive love for the true and honorable. There is both work to be done and also much for which we are called to be very grateful.

In the spiritual life, peace and longing are mysteriously bound together. We find the closest connection between journey and goal. Somehow in the wilderness we are already given our first encounter with the Promised Land. We remember the long way that the Lord our God has led us because the end point cannot be reduced to "reward." The end point is incarnate in the process itself. The Sermon on the Mount, from which our Gospel lection is taken today, is the ethic of

a life now made possible by the inbreaking of the Kingdom of Heaven **now**.

Surely, we should not seize preliminary experiences as though they exhausted the end of our journey. “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) We are still in passage to the manifestation of a new heaven and earth in Christ. It has been written, “earth, [only] if put second to heaven... will turn out... to have been from the beginning a part of Heaven itself.” (C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, Preface)

Nevertheless, we ought not forget that the goal is found not just after the pilgrimage, but in it as well. It has been said that we live between “the already and the not yet.” As we reflect on our experience of faith, if we find too exclusive a focus on the “not yet,” perhaps we ought to re-check our spiritual map. Our quest is to become more perfectly who we already are in Christ. God meets us in the present.

I’m reminded of a traditional fable which exists in a number of versions. There was a man named Isaac who lived in poverty and hunger. He had a recurring dream that told him of marvelous riches hidden under the gates of the capital city. Finally, he left his village and made the long trip. When he got to the gates, however, he found that they were under constant guard. He remained there, frustrated, for several days, until one of the guards asked him his business. He actually told about the dream, only to be laughed to scorn. The guard sent him on his way with a warning not to waste his time. “After all,” the guard said, “if I paid attention to dreams, I would have set off years ago to your very own village to find what was stashed under the house of someone named Isaac.” The poor man took his leave, made the return journey, and then at home found the buried treasure.

As surprising a vocation as it may sometimes seem, as we take hold of the identity already given to us in Christ, God carries out the redemption of the world. “Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19) Both anxiety and presumption rest on forgetfulness. We are called to remembrance – called also to be the first-fruits of a creation now freed from fear, and freed up now to offer thanksgiving and praise to God.

The Long and Winding Road

Every time I think I’m progressing as a human being, God pricks my conscience and makes me cough up one more personal characteristic to remind me that I’ve still got a long way to go. This season of election blasts has – strangely enough – allowed the Holy

Spirit, once again, to throw cold water all over my sense of spiritual accomplishment.

I’ve been patting myself on the back, thinking about how tolerant I am. For instance: I’ve been practicing loving my neighbors – all the ones who live around me – even the one with that idiotic sign stuck in his yard for that awful political hack. I’ve congratulated myself on my tolerance toward those who have expressed political, economic, and social opinions different from my own, even though their opinions are obviously wrong and full of nonsense. How big of me. This is the kind of understanding and generosity that makes up a good part of the pavement which goes all the way to Hell.

Learning to Love each other and to honor each other is easy when we are agreeing on things, or when we’re speaking in large, theoretical images, isolated from the reality that surrounds us. But Jesus did not tell us to love each other just when we agree. Jesus tells us to hold each other, to hold all our neighbors, to hold all the world, in love, respect, and gentleness. You know – the qualities we wish to experience from others toward ourselves.

The real test for loving our neighbor comes when we find ourselves on opposite ends of important issues. We pass this test when we find that our concern for others; their well-being and their feelings, outweighs the differences we may have in opinions.

My neighbors and I don’t share the same political beliefs, the same religious beliefs, or even the same ideas about lawn care. But we do share a common neighborhood, a common street, and a common covey of quail. We can commensurate about house repairs and grandchildren.

Loving each other, in spite of our differences, is key to our spiritual growth and salvation. Respecting each other as God’s children allows us to approach opposing ideas without tying our affections to a win or lose struggle. When the dust settles, on any dispute, we still need to care about each other.

So, in this season of political battle, may I suggest a new slogan. Rather than “May the best man (or woman, or idea, or religion, or nation) win”, let’s borrow a phrase from good old Charles Dickens. “God bless us EVERYONE.”

Blessings,

Claudia †

Associate Rector’s Office Hours
Wednesdays
7:00pm - 9:00pm

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@quantium.net

Website: www.goodshepherdoden.org

From the Senior Warden

A big thank you to our ECW and their hardworking Bazaar chairmen: Linda Harden, Billie Wilson, and Linda Garner. The bazaar was a wonderful success, and a great time and many Christmas presents were had by all!

Thanks to Tim Wilson for taking over the golf tournament. We hosted several people from other Northern Utah parishes, and it was nice to have them join us at the picnic.

Thank you to all who joined us for the picnic also! It was a beautiful afternoon and a time of good fellowship and relaxation.

The Vestry will soon form the Nominating Committee for three open Vestry positions. If you know someone whom you think has the gifts needed to take on this position of leadership and service, or if you would be interested yourself, please tell one of the clergy or wardens. It is quite an investment in time, energy, and commitment, but one that reaps many benefits as well.

Another reminder, to everyone in the Parish: we are an inner city parish, and often have people in our building that are not known to us. We always want to be welcoming to any visitor, but it is also wise to keep your valuables with you at all times, or stow them in a secure, locked location. We will also try to be more careful to keep the office locked when it is not in use. I know I tend to get careless, and leave my purse lying around, so an occasional "word to the wise: may be needed for us all.

Lucy Stretch

**Counting all expenses, it costs
\$646.85 per day to keep Good
Shepherd open and running.**

Adult Sunday School

This fall in Adult Sunday School our focus is on current challenging issues in bioethics. The medicine and science have developed to the point where we face a host of new, often difficult issues, from conception to end-of-life. The schedule for this month is as follows:

November 7 J2A, Session III

November 14 Who Gets What Care? Session I

November 21 Who Gets What Care? Session II

November 28 NO CLASS

Angels Among Us

There are some very special angels who I would like to thank for their ministrations and faithful friendship to Jane Jackson. Nancy Mikesell has been Jane's friend for many years and has always visited her and brought her Kentucky Fried Chicken once a week, which was a treat for Jane. Then when she couldn't tolerate the chicken any longer, Nancy would bring her granddaughter Amy and they would read to Jane. She always sent her cards, as did Billie Wilson. Sherrie Bangert would visit Jane often and did her laundry for over two years while Jane was at Gardens Assisted Living. She would also read to Jane. This means so much to someone who can not communicate, to know that they have not been abandoned and that there are still friends who really care. Even though Jane couldn't thank you angels herself, I hope you know that it was a blessing for her to have you as friends. Thanks for angels like Nancy, Billie and Sherrie.

Nancy Groshart

New Knitting Ministry

There will be a shawl-knitting ministry starting up at Good Shepherd, so any interested knitters, male or female, please join us. We have a book which offers prayers, instructions and wonderful quotes and we will see if The Attic can order it for us. Sandra Corp has agreed to be our mentor and she is an expert knitter, so even if you don't know how, we can teach you. The recommended stitch is very simple. The shawls will be given to women who are grieving or sick or have some other situation going on in their life for which we might provide some comfort. If the gift is for a man, then an afghan can be made. Those interested in this ministry please contact Nancy Groshart.

Episcopal Church Women

Congratulations to EVERYONE!! The Holiday Bazaar held on Saturday, October 16 was a terrific success – the Bazaar extended to “after Services” on Sunday the 17th – and I am very happy to report that the money total to the ECW is \$2,700!!! What many and needy situations and requests we will be able to meet due to this great financial success! But this would not have been possible without all the wonderful help and cooperation from you, the Parishioners. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say many, many thanks to everyone who contributed – with items made, with baking and canning and time spent working before, during and after the Bazaar. As I have always said, “The members of Good Shepherd can ALWAYS be counted on to be there when and where needed.” I offer my very special thanks to the three Co-Chairmen for our Bazaar – Billie Wilson, Linda Harden and Linda Garner – and I do believe they actually had a forth Co-Chairman – Belle Schwarzenbach – y’all were SUPER-GREAT! Congratulations to all the winners of the wonderful raffle gifts – they were outstanding items – especially all the beautiful entries made by Linda Harden and although she has “gone south” I must give special thanks to Joan Eggert for the beautiful quilt and jewelry she made and contributed.

I’m sure many of you saw the poster and information I placed on the bulletin board outside of Father Adam’s office on the wonderful student, Paul Lukosha, who the ECW has sponsored to secure his teaching credentials in Zambia. Paul is now teaching young children in Zambia and in recent letters to me and Linda Garner, he told of his great need for a bicycle to get back and forth to the school where he teaches – he has to walk 40 kilometers each way, and among other things, it is quite dangerous. I am very happy to advise you that at the October 9th meeting of the ECW, it was voted to fund a bicycle for Paul and the money has been sent to the head of the Kasama Teachers College via Western Union for Paul’s bicycle – this transaction being graciously handled by Linda Garner. We have asked Paul to send us a picture of himself and his new bicycle when he obtains it. We thought all of you might like to share in Paul’s wonderful and caring letters, so his most recent one to me will be published in this month’s Call and the most recent one to Linda Garner next month. He is truly a fine young man and very worthy of the ECW financial support – and it would not be possible without the money made from our Bazaars.

I hope all of you have a Happy and Howling Halloween and many blessings with family and friends for Thanksgiving.

Jan Shanklin
ECW President

A Letter from Zambia

Dear Jan Shanklin,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and the rest of the church members for the efforts you are making to send different materials to me especially in the letter of 5/6/2004.

It is very sad to have not [been] in the position to receive all the sent gifts and letters and my birthday card. And I don’t know what to say about that because you [made] the effort to send and confirm if they have reached me but the answer was a quick NO. This is how people of today are and this is not a strange thing.

Over the sending of the book, please you can mail it through the next address above because it is the Ministry of Education district box where all teachers receive the mails. The request of photos is noted and I will send them in the next coming letter when I [return to school.] This [delay] was due to the receiving of the letter late though it reached home early. From the district to where I have been posted to, is far east of Mbala about 45-50 km and the school is bordered to Tanzania. So the letter reached home in time but the message was a tortoise’s walk to reach me.

Jan, the only problem which I am facing is lack of bicycle as a valuable and available means of transport. This actually makes my movement very unsatisfactory because I took the bicycle to and from the school. And I do reach the school in the night which is very risky. Nevertheless, this problem has been also addressed to Linda Garner and I hope you will combine the efforts and help to seeing me succeed.

On the Spring luncheon, I have no idea. So in the next mail please try to explain what really takes place during this function. I feel the best way for me to understand much much better is to have an experience and participate in the function. I mean coming and witness how these functions and other activities are conducted. I am actually requesting because I am hungry and thirsty of Ogden as Lazarous in one of the [stories] of the Bible.

Please other problems will be addressed later pertaining to my living here in Zambia. May the Lord of mercy be with you always.

Yours,
Lukosha Paul
2004/9/13

N.B. When sending, please use the registered so that you [receive] the receipt as you did in order to minimize the risks of theft.

** I hope that one day you would come and experience!**

United Thank Offering

Greetings fellow parishioners! I hope you are each enjoying a beautiful fall season. Perhaps you do not prefer autumn weather. In that case you may be "thankful" that the summer heat has passed. Or maybe you are "thankful" that the winter snow has not yet hit full force. My point is that there is always something to be thankful for. Please remember that we will be conducting the ingathering of the little blue United Thank Offering boxes on **November 21**. Let us all give THANKS!!

Tricia Dirks
UTO Representative

Study Groups

Our Study Groups will continue in November with discussions on one of the more important works of Native American literature. Copies of the book *Black Elk Speaks* are available in The Attic. Two interchangeable sessions are offered each week: Tuesdays at 7:00pm and Thursdays at 12:45pm following the mid-week Eucharist with Healing Prayers. All are welcome.

Acolyte Training Day
Saturday, November 6
10am to 1pm

Training for all - New and Old
~Server Training at 9:30~

Please join us in Tuttle Hall for
instruction, lunch, a movie and fun!

From the Altar Guild...

To provide altar flowers for thank offerings and memorials at any time in the year, or to contribute to the keeping of the sanctuary lamp, please contact Nancy Mikesell at 782-4381. The cost is \$30 for flowers, or \$5 per week for the lamp. Please make checks payable to "Altar Guild."

November Acolyte Schedule

Please mark you calendars, remember to arrive at least 15 minutes early, and if you cannot make your scheduled date, please find a replacement! Any questions, contact Barbara or Steve.

November 7

8:00 David Seiter

10:30 Server: Ethan Roberts
Crucifer: Sarah LeTourneau
Clergy Cross: Stephen Harden
Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Sarah Mojazza,
Connor Lay, Shayn Moss

November 14

8:00 Letitia Teneau-Sword

10:30 Server: Kelly Garner
Crucifer: Alex Bray
Clergy Cross: Jeffrey Hales
Torches: Zachary Bray, McKenzie Bray
Matthew Hales, Tori Skiver

November 21

8:00 John Kunkel

10:30 Server: Andy Pierce
Crucifer: Curtis Pierce
Clergy Cross: Rachel Hargis
Torches: Alexx Unsworth, Sarriya Hill
Riley Thomas, Chloe Novell

November 28

8:00 Dan Johnston

10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon
Crucifer: Sarah Guyon
Clergy Cross: Taryn Kelly
Torches: Alaina Kelly, Nolan Peters
Brianna Thornsby, Shyanne Thornsby

✚ Red Cross Blood Drive ✚
Wednesday, November 3
2:00pm - 7:00pm
Tuttle Hall

Second Saturday Social November 13, 6:30pm

Join the fun in Tuttle Hall
Listen for Dan's Sunday
announcements for details

Lay Reader Training

Anyone who is interested in participating in this important ministry is encouraged to attend a special training session scheduled for **Saturday, November 20** beginning at **12 noon**. Dan Johnston, the coordinator, promises instruction, a delicious chili lunch, and some fine competitive exercises, designed to challenge even the most fluent of scripture readers. Long-time readers are asked to join the fun, and be reacquainted with the confusing laws of processing, pronunciation, lectern height adjustment procedures, podium etiquette, the physics of voice projection, costume fitting, and the reverence and joy associated with the sharing of Holy Eucharist.

Dan welcomes any questions you may have, and please let him know if you plan to attend, so lunch preparations can be made. He's available at 731-4573, or you may call the church office at 392-8168. Thanks.

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. Glenna Hard, Brenda Ruffier
2. Mary Bauter
3. Nancy Mikesell
4. Darlene Nelson
6. Jack Neale, Alexandra Sword
7. Lori Linton, Betty Wood
12. Lori Merchell
14. Vern Bergstrom, Jack Mauterer
17. Georgette LeTourneau
18. Matthew Hales
21. Jan Shanklin
22. Jessica Bauter, Zorka Divich, Cecile Lloyd

23. Carolyn Anderson, Bonnie Taylor
24. Tim Wilson
29. Laura Johnston

November 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)

8. Rich & Kristin Bauter
10. Robert & Diane Fairchild
21. Robert & Linda Garner

Announcing, well in advance...the

Fourth Annual Middle-Earth Party Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 2374 Grant Avenue Ogden, Utah Friday, 21 January 2005

The schedule:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5:00pm | Gather and Eat
Roasted Root Vegetables
Mushroom Tart
Ripe Meat off the Bone
Baked Apples with Cream
Bread Pudding |
| 6:00pm | Return of the King, Extended
Version, Part I |
| 8:15pm | Intermission, with Middle-Earth
Trivia Quiz with Prizes
First Prize – Lord of the Rings Trivia Game
Second Prize – Middle-Earth Map Poster
Third Prize – Tolkien Calendar |
| 9:00 pm | Return of the King, Extended
Version, Part II |

Costumes Highly Encouraged