

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

DECEMBER 2006

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

The Church Year begins for us on the First Sunday of Advent, which, in 2006, falls on 3 December. We commence this new annual cycle in spirit of expectation. We're called, in our initial spiritual business, to cultivate our practice of waiting on and for God.

However, if we fix for God a too-rigid script, by which God must act, and how this action must appear, we're likely to miss that for which we're looking. If it's really God for whom we are waiting, our expectation must make room for the unexpected.

In the Book of Isaiah, we hear the prophecy, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (43:18-19) The new thing in Jesus Christ is both once for all and also, inexhaustible. This newness does not expire. How could we think it to be capturable, containable? If we think that we've "heard it all," maybe we never (or never yet) truly heard it to begin with.

How likely would it be that spiritual perplexity, wonder, and discovery were only meant for the first Christians, way back when – and the rest of us, since then, are simply meant to settle into comprehensive super-assurance? To be sure, in faith we don't live – and can't live – in isolation, either personal or temporal. Community is essential. But if Christ is the Mediator, he must be for all of us, in all times and conditions, directly available, unbrokered and unfranchised, in newness and in power.

Referring to the reading of Scripture, the English poet-priest George Herbert (1593-1633), wrote of "Bibles laid open, millions of surprises." This Advent-tide, may we grow in precisely the capacity for Godly surprise. "Come, thou long-expected Jesus." For what part of who he is will we find that we have been waiting to meet?

Blessings.

Adam †

P.S. As a special intention in our life together, I am especially encouraging every member of our Good Shepherd community to attend and participate in one of the services on the weekend of December 3, the First Sunday of Advent.

Autumn and Advent

My mother used to say that autumn was her favorite time of year. She loved the beautiful colors dressing the trees and the crunch of leaves as people walked from place to place. I can remember the Sunday afternoon drives our family would take to experience the crisp air and the smell of dry fall leaves and flowers.

I must confess that, as a kid, while I thought the trees looked great, I considered autumn to be my least favorite season. Winter should have held that dubious position because my friends and I would turn into popsicles walking from school to our houses every day. But winter has Christmas stuck in it. No matter how much we hated the cold, we could forgive a lot in order to keep Christmas.

Over the years however, I have come to love the autumn season. Not for the same reasons as my mother, but because autumn brings the season of Advent. The paradox is wonderful. As the northern hemisphere prepares to sleep, Advent calls us to awaken. To prepare for the coming of Christ. While the world grows weary and twilight dominates the days' hours, our task is to watch and make all aspects of our lives ready.

What we choose to do in our lives and how we determine to spend our days make up the heart of the spiritual journey we're on. All of us have 24 hours in each day to follow God's will and to model Christ's love. The season of Advent offers pause – a chance to evaluate whether those hours in each day have been used to bring us, and all whose lives we touch, closer to God's love and mercy.

Not long ago, I read an interview from President Jimmy Carter. He was asked why at his age, and with so many past

accomplishments, he continued to put such energy and time into programs helping others. Here was his response:

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. I'm free to choose what that something is, and something I've chosen is my faith. Now my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands – this is not optional – my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have, to try and make a difference.

Advent allows for this kind of reflection and prayer which calls us to rededication. I need this time of year to remind me that, while God loves me under all circumstances, God also expects me to behave as if I truly understand what such love is all about.

Have a blessed Advent season.

Claudia †

Attention All Junior High & High School Students

Episcopal Youth will be joined by
Bishop Irish for a special evening
Friday, December 15 – Tuttle Hall
Meet at 5:00pm for dinner
We will then watch Al Gore's movie
"An Inconvenient Truth"
followed by a conversation with the
bishop about the film. Please join us.

The Twining of the Greens

The Social Committee is busy planning a fun evening to prepare the Nave and Tuttle Hall for Christmas. Watch the bulletin board for the sign-up sheets.

The Twining will start at 5:00pm on December 22. Your choices to sign up for will be the dinner crew, the actual twining crew or the decorating Tuttle Hall crew.

When the decorating, twining and cleanup are finished, we will have a wonderful meal together.

This year will be a little different, because we cannot actually decorate the Nave until after the Fourth Sunday of Advent service which will be the 9:00am service on December 24. Following that service we will also need a crew to place the greens in the Nave and clean up.

The Twining is a great time to meet fellow parishioners. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun work-filled time... also lots of talking and laughing.

Then watch for the Epiphany Brunch on January 7. After the 10:30 Sunday service we will be taking down all the decorations, cleaning up and then have a brunch. These activities will be a wonderful start and finish to the Twelve Days of Christmas.

We hope everyone will join us and get to know each other in the process.

–Billie Wilson

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

Meeting with Architects Set

The parish is invited to attend a meeting with our architects at **Noon on Sunday, December 3**. They will present some sketches for our perusal, so please plan to be there. Everyone is welcome, and food will be served.

Christmas Thank Offerings and Memorials

Remember your loved ones by purchasing Poinsettias which will be used to decorate the church. They are available for \$20 again this year, and your memorial or thank offering will be printed in the bulletin for the Christmas services. Order by Friday, December 15 by contacting Nancy Mikesell at 782-4381. Make checks payable to Altar Guild.

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

Now Available in The Attic

We now have samples of Good Shepherd sweatshirts in assorted sizes and colors. Our faithful bookkeeper / committee member, Lee Hardy, located a source in Ogden to supply us with beautifully embroidered shirts at a reasonable cost. Please come in soon to choose your size and color, and place your order.

New Eucharistic Lectionary

This December, Good Shepherd Church is switching to the *Revised Common Lectionary*, adopted for the Episcopal Church by General Convention this last June.

The Eucharistic Lectionary, which provided the readings for our services on Sunday and other Major Feasts, printed in *The Book of Common Prayer* (page 889 and following), therefore now becomes obsolete. However, the Daily Office Lectionary (page 934 and following), which provides the readings for Morning and Evening Prayer, will continue as before.

New editions of our Prayer Book, containing the revised lectionary, will be available next fall. Until then, recognizing that there are a number of us who like to be able to read and reflect on the lections for the coming Sunday or Feast Day, we'll be publishing the *Revised Common Lectionary* portions for the coming month in *The Call*.

3 December 2006 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

10 December 2006 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle 16 (BCP 92), The Song of Zecharia *Luke 1:68-79*
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

17 December 2006 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9 (BCP 86), The First Song of Isaiah *Isaiah 12:2-6*
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

24 December 2006 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday morning,, 9:00am)

Micah 5:2-5a
Canticle 15 (BCP91), The Song of Mary *Luke 1:46-55*
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

24 December 2006 Christmas Eve services (Sunday evening, 4:00, 7:30 & 10:30pm)

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
Psalm 96:1-4,11-12
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

25 December 2006 Christmas Day service (Monday morning, 9:00am)

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

31 December 2006 First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 147:13-21, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18

Affirmations

On December 13, from 9:00am to noon, Bishop Irish will lead an Advent Quiet Day. Subject and Place to be determined. Please contact the Diocesan Office at 801-595-5362 or visit the website at www.episcopal-ut.org for more information.

Usher Schedule for December

December 3 – Jay & Lucy Stretch

December 10 – Tom & Lee Hardy

December 17 – Dan & Laura Johnston

December 24 – 9:00am – Bill Jourdan

4:00pm – John & Cecele Cox

7:30pm – Chip & Barbara Wilde

10:30pm – Charles Swindler, Bill Jourdan,

Lucy Stretch, Cecile & Marion Lloyd

December 25 – none

December 31 – 9:00am – Cecile Lloyd & Bill Jourdan

Acolyte Schedule for December

There will be FOUR services on December 24 – please let Steve or Barbara know which services you plan to attend as soon as possible – Thanks.

December 3

8:00 Brenda Ruffier

10:30 Server: Jeffery Hales

Crucifer: Matthew Hales

Clergy Cross: Nolan Peters

Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Tori Skiver

December 10

8:00 Dan Johnston

10:30 Server: Robert Fairchild

Crucifer: Melissa Fairchild

Clergy Cross: Brandon Backus

Torches: Shayn Moss, Madeline Gale

December 17

8:00 Bonnie Taylor

10:30 Server: Alex Bray

Crucifer: McKenzi Bray

Clergy Cross: Zachary Bray

Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Tori Skiver

December 31

8:00 John Kunkel

10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon

Crucifer: Sarah Guyon

Clergy Cross: Patrick Campbell

Torches: Meg Ryder, Andrea Arnett

January 7, 2007

8:00 David Seiter

10:30 Server: Taryn Kelly

Crucifer: Alaina Kelly

Clergy Cross: Sarah Guyon

Torches: Shayn Moss, Madeline Gale

Confirmation Classes

Adults:

Saturday, December 16, 3:00 - 5:00pm

Engaging with the Scriptures, Part One

Youth:

Monday, December 4, 5:45pm Bible, Introduction

Monday, December 18, 5:45pm The Old Testament

Study Groups

Beginning in December we will spend three weeks discussing the poetry of George Herbert, a seventeenth century scholar, musician and Anglican priest. Herbert's words embrace the necessity for ceremony and respect the significant role of the Holy Sacraments, but, like John Donne, describe a loving and forgiving God, in the midst of the debate between the strict adherence to "High Church" principles and the more embracing Protestant depiction of man's relationship with God and Church.

An avid reader of Shakespeare, Sidney and Donne, Herbert's own writing exhibits a grace and fluency highly regarded by his colleagues, borrowing from Shakespeare's skill at punning, Donne's eye for paradox, and feeding Gerard Manley Hopkins' later skill in the art of wordplay. His efforts have been rewarded with accolades from literary critics for centuries, and in his lifetime, he was recognized with an appointment as "Public Orator" at Cambridge, and a seat in King James's last parliament.

Please join us for a discussion of George Herbert's poetry beginning December 5 (7:00pm) or December 7 (12:45pm). Copies of the modern-language *George Herbert: The Complete English Poems* are available in The Attic.

Thanks, and “Why Not”?

Congratulations to all our wonderful parishioners for the “Great Stuff” provided for our “What Not” sale on November 4. The variety was wonderful and we had enough left over from our sales to take some much needed and fun items to St. Anne’s. My very heartfelt thanks to Cherie Wittmer, Christine Reddick and Lee Hardy for all their help the day before the Bazaar, setting up and pricing all our “What Not” items. And to Cherie for her invaluable help “un-doing” and packing up all the items that did not sell so we could distribute them to St. Anne’s and to the Ogden Rescue Mission Thrift Store – their distribution only made possible by the great help of Tom Hardy and his truck. Thanks again to one and all for a super “What Not-Why Not Treasure Adventure” sale. A very profitable and fun day for all of us.

– Jan Shanklin, ECW Board

From the editor

Thank you everyone for your submissions. Please keep in mind that the deadline for the January edition of the newsletter are due BEFORE Christmas. Whereas it is hardly fair to ask that you look beyond the joy of Christmas when we are still in the reflective season of Advent, it is necessary to have your January submissions to me by DECEMBER 20. Your efforts are appreciated.

Thanks,
Betsy Guyon

I have a box in Linda’s office, or you may call me at 745-0417, or send an email to bguyon801@msn.com

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)

November

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
20. Ethan Roberts
21. Jan Shanklin
22. Jessica Bauter, Zorka Divich, Cecile Lloyd
23. Carolyn Anderson, Bonnie Taylor
24. Tim Wilson
29. Laura Johnston

December

1. Anita Brooks, Bobbie Clark
6. Erik Gill, Dan Johnston
8. Jim Hard
9. Robert Arnett, Richard Bauter, Bettye Gillespie, Anna Johnston
10. Jon Gill, Jr.
12. Christina Clark
13. Alexander Anderson
14. William R. Doe, Shayn Moss, Elisabeth Torghelle
15. Jacob Guyon
17. William Doe
18. Rollan Tonkinson
21. Marty Moss
23. Gary Crolla
26. Joshua Crockett
28. David Dirks, Barbara Wilde

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)

November

8. Rich & Kristin Bauter
10. Robert & Diane Fairchild
21. Nathan & Amy Ellis, Robert & Linda Garner

December

29. Jay & Lucy Stretch

....Sundays of man’s life,
Threaded together on time’s string,
Make bracelets to adorn the wife
Of the eternal glorious King.
On Sunday heaven’s gate stands ope;
Blessings are plentiful and rife,
More plentiful than hope...

– George Herbert (from *The Temple*, published 1633)

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