



# Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

## AGNUS DEI

October 2021

### ORDINARY WAYS OF GOD

"In the days when the Judges ruled. . . "(Ruth 1:1, ESV)

*"Delight  
yourself in  
the LORD,  
and he  
will give you  
the desires  
of your heart."*

(Psalm 37:4, ESV)

God moves through and interacts with our history in ways that's are seen dramatically and very subtly. Today, many of us would cry out to God and ask that he would provide direct intervention in our country and in our world. No doubt, God is moving behind the scenes, moving everything ultimately to his honor and glory. Sometimes, we feel stuck in between and want God to "stick it to the other side" or to stop putting up with all of this nonsense. In the book of Ruth, during the time of the Judges (before David and the unified Kingdom), a widow Naomi and her widow daughter in law Ruth left Moab destitute looking for some relief in Naomi's native Judah. Remember, in those days there were no social safety nets. If you didn't have assets, families were the only relief. Neither Naomi nor Ruth had any children. Instead of remaining in her native land of Moab, Ruth pledged herself to her mother-in-law with the words that often are repeated thousands of years later in wedding ceremonies:

"But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you" (Ruth 1:16-17, ESV).

From Ruth' devotion to Naomi we have an example of pure love. We don't have to live in luxury and have most things go our way to be blessed. These two ladies didn't have anything—except each other. Of course, God was in the background working his redemption story. If you follow the brief book of Ruth in our Old Testament, you will discover that Ruth is "redeemed" by Boaz and she eventually gives birth to the grandfather of King David. Our faithfulness now during times of testing and trial is planting seeds of faith that God will use in his salvation history.

*(continued)*

Anglican Church  
of the  
Good Shepherd

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Send articles, announcements  
and feedback to  
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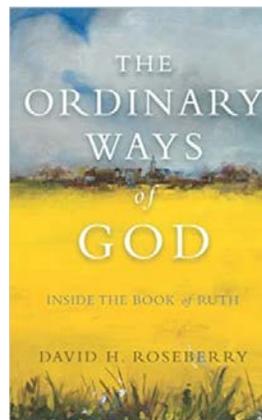
Each family should have received a book from our church written by David Roseberry, *The Ordinary Ways of God: Inside the Book of Ruth*. The book is divided into 31 days so that it can be read devotionally in one month. Just because on the surface Ruth seems simple and the devotional book is short and easy to be read, don't be fooled into thinking it doesn't have much to offer. As I read the pre-publication book, I gained many insights that I had missed in almost 40 years of ordained work. The impact of this devotional can be significant for you, your family, and our church. We can trust that God is moving all around us in ordinary ways to take care of us and to draw us closer to him.

In our church calendar, we are still celebrating "ordinary time" in the month of October. October, though, is bringing us cooler temperatures, fall sports, and time for us to begin to close out the church year with a fresher devotion to our Lord. How should we be serving God? More faithful attendance? More alone time with him? Sharing the faith with those who have no hope? Giving in more challenging ways? "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4, ESV).

I am honored to be your Rector.  
Let's continue to pray for one another!



Fr. Hal



THE ORDINARY WAYS of GOD is David Roseberry's newest book in a growing number of biblical commentaries written for men and women who want to go deep in their understanding of Scripture.

The events described in the Book of Ruth happen during a time of national apostasy, social unrest, and political disorder. Sound familiar? Yet, out of the darkness of a rebellious nation, the Book of Ruth shines like a beacon of hope. Its message is simple: God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purpose.

*Feeling ordinary? Feeling down? Feeling overwhelmed by the problems of everyday life? Then read THE ORDINARY WAYS of GOD. It will lift you up and bring you closer to the Lord. It did that for me!*

—JOE FRANCIS

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DAVID ROSEBERRY has been a bible teacher and pastor for nearly 40 years. For the majority of his ministry, he served as founding Rector of Christ Church, Plano, one of the largest Anglican churches in the United States.

He lives in Prosper, Texas with his wife Fran. They have four children, five grandchildren. *THE ORDINARY WAYS of GOD* is his fifth book.

**DISCRETIONARY OFFERINGS**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, cash placed in the offering plates is designated for the Rector's Discretionary account. Checks may also be written payable to the church, with discretionary fund in the memo.

**Daughters of the Holy Cross**

**D.H.C.** meets at 10am the first Saturday of each month. Next month's meeting is **November 6th.**

 If you are currently receiving our newsletter in print, you have the option to go paperless. In the interest of stewardship and reducing the cost of postage, paper, and other printing related costs, you can opt to receive our newsletter by email only. It is also available on our website.

 To be taken off the snail mail newsletter list please email Jenny in the church office @ [admin@anglicancgs.com](mailto:admin@anglicancgs.com)

# ACGS ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DINNER

The Annual Stewardship Dinner will be held  
**Sunday, November 7th at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall**  
***This year's dinner will be a potluck.***

The church will provided a main course of fried chicken  
and we ask you to bring the sides.  
Vestry members will be calling to secure your reservation.

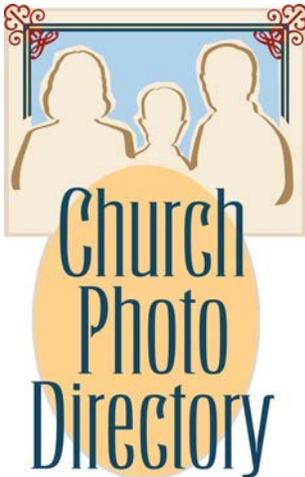
## DESSERT CONTEST!

Once again, at the Stewardship Dinner, members will have the opportunity  
to prepare a homemade dessert and enter it in the competition.  
Any dessert may be entered, all deserts are homemade, and prizes will be awarded.

## PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2022

Pledge Cards and envelopes for the coming year are available in the Narthex.  
If you need one mailed to you please contact Jenny in the church office.  
You may bring it with you to the Stewardship Dinner on  
November 7 or place it in the offering plate that day.

## BOOK YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO APPOINTMENT NOW



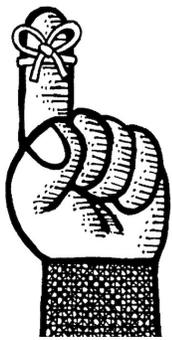
Lou will be taking hourly appointments Monday through Friday, except Wednesdays, thru October 15. The first appointment will be at 9:30 and the last at 1:30.

To make an appointment, call Jenny in the office at 949-6260.

You'll be able to view the proof at the sitting and make your selection then. Your selection will be used for the updated directory.

Additionally, he'll create a high resolution digital portrait package which he will email to you along with a copyright release.

There is no charge for the portraits but if you're so inclined you can add a little extra in the collection plate some Sunday.



DON'T FORGET OUR  
*PROJECT DIGNIDAD COLLECTION DAY IS  
THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.*  
PLEASE BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE  
DONATIONS TO BE BLESSED.



For more information on  
this mission, YouTube  
Plarn Mats Texas Country Reporter

Just a reminder...  
we collect plastic bags for  
Project Dignidad



***Support and encouragement  
for your grief journey.***

**GRIEF SHARE**

***Tuesday, September 7 and will meet each Tuesday  
evening at 6:00 through November 30.***

*Meetings will be held here at ACGS in the conference room.  
If you are interested in participating, or know of someone who  
might be, please contact Fr. Hal Scott for more information:  
navychaplain59@gmail.com or 757-617-2597*



# *Project Dignidad*

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*Please help us provide a Thanksgiving dinner  
for our fellow San Angeloans who find  
themselves in need at this time of year.*

*Turkeys and food boxes will be provided  
by monetary donations to:*

*Project Dignidad  
313 W Avenue N  
San Angelo, TX 76903*

*Please write your church/organization  
in the memo section*

*325-777-1304*

*Or*

*Checks can be made out to your church/organization  
with Project Dignidad written in the memo section.*

*Please help with your continued support  
of this mission for our community.*

## LIVING WITH JESUS THEN AND NOW

### LOST AND FOUND

Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."  
Luke 19:10 NIV

Every Gospel describes something lost. Jesus uses this recurrent theme in His parables. If salt loses its saltiness, it is fit for nothing (Matthew 5:13). If a shepherd loses one sheep he leaves the ninety-nine to search until he finds it. Then he calls his neighbors to rejoice with him. Jesus compares the lost sheep to a repentant sinner (Luke 15:4-7). When a woman with ten coins loses one, she is methodical and diligent in her search for it. And finding it, she calls her friends to rejoice with her. Jesus teaches that God's angels rejoice when one sinner repents (Luke 15:8-10).

Likewise in Jesus' healing ministry He returns a man or woman of faith to a prior state of well being and wholeness. Two blind men are restored of sight when Jesus says, "According to your faith will it be done to you." (Matthew 9:29). A woman subject to bleeding for twelve years is returned to wellness because of her belief (Mark 5:25-34). A woman is healed on the Sabbath after being crippled by a spirit for 18 years (Luke 13:10-13). He resurrects the dead: Jairus' daughter in Mark 5:35-43 and His friend, Lazarus in John 11:1-44. Even those who were dead are restored to life because of faith in Christ.

Notice the pattern in each story. The item which is lost belonged to someone who valued it enough to search carefully until the thing (even health) is recovered. So it is with Abba Father God who seeks after our souls when we have gone astray.

We belong to our Creator, plain and simple. Made in His image, His name is written on our hearts. Because God loved us first He sent His only Son into the world to bring us back into His grace. In our quest for recovery we find redemption. Likewise, through faith, we find healing in the Son of God and Man.

In the healing miracles, the faithful seek Jesus as the solution to their misery. There is an urgency expressed in their need for relief, restoration, and reconciliation. They know something is missing in their lives: a homeostasis, a fundamental balance between body and spirit. They endure humiliation as they wait in public places, shouting to get His attention. The lepers, the outcasts and those rejected from society come to Him and Jesus heals because He has compassion for them. Yes, His grace is astonishing, astounding, and amazing. And it is yours for the asking.

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see."  
Lyrics by Anglican Rector and hymn writer John Newton, 1779

Worldly gain is one of Satan's favorite distractions to sidetrack us in our pursuit of a Godly life. Son or daughter, we are easily caught up in the web of materialism. Put yourself in the shoes of the Prodigal. Watch the metamorphosis from haughty, proud, and self righteous to contrite, humble, and repentant. Imagine the joy in being recovered from sin. Can you not hear the angels singing? Amen!

#### **The Parable of the Lost Son**

Once upon a time I was part of a wealthy family, the second son of a well-to-do farmer. My father worked hard for a living with my older brother and me by his side. It was a good life, filled with the traditions and harmony of our agrarian culture. Seasons dictated our farming duties. In springtime we planted seeds. The fields yielded grains and our herds prospered. We gathered the harvest and celebrated the feasts. The sun rose and set in nature's balance.

Yet something nagged within me, goading me into dissatisfaction and boredom. A faraway land had so much more to offer: sights and sounds, wine, women and song. Disgruntled, I demanded my share of the estate from my father. Why should I wait? I rationalized. It is my inheritance and I want it now.

The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. I took my portion and traveled to that distant country. My money bought excitement, thrills, and fame. I had friends, luxurious clothing, and a mansion on a hill. Then one day I awoke and it was all gone. Without resources or cash, I was homeless. And when the famine hit, I had nothing to eat.

Out of necessity I sought a job with a farmer. It was humiliating to hire myself out as a pig feeder, and shocking to see that pigs ate better than I did. I came to my senses when I realized my father's hired servants were more fortunate than me.

Shame over my bad decisions hounded me. Remorse from poor choices gnawed at me. Fear of facing the error of my ways choked me. Surely there is a better place for me in my father's house. Once I relinquished my guilt I headed home, eager to confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. With a humble, contrite heart I began the journey to the place where I was born.

While I was still some distance from home my father ran to greet me. He was overjoyed, hugging and kissing me! I blurted out my heart-felt contrition as he danced with joy, ordering servants to dress me in fine clothing with his ring upon my finger. We celebrated my return with a feast.

I truly meant every word of remorse and vowed to be the obedient son my father deserves. Yet my brother remained livid and resentful, having no understanding of being forsaken.

To this day I am amazed at the depth of a Father's compassion. Once lost, I am found and alive again in a Father's love.

### **Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling**

"Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling; calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

"Come home, come home, ye who are weary come home.  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!"

Lyrics and music by American composer Will Lamartine Thompson, 1880

Jean Stinnett



### **ANNOUNCEMENT & ARTICLE DEADLINES**

The deadline to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin is Wednesdays at Noon and the deadline for the Parish Newsletter is the third Friday of the month. Submissions should be sent to Jenny at the church office, [secretary.acgs@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:secretary.acgs@suddenlinkmail.com) or drop it off at the church office Monday-Friday, 9-11:30AM or Noon-2:00PM. Thank you.

**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

**AGNUS DEI**



- Pastor's Message  
"Ordinary Ways of God"
- Stewardship Dinner  
November 7,, 2021
- Book Your Church Directory  
Photo Appointment
- Living With Jesus Lost and Found  
Jean Stinnett



**October Birthdays**

- 10/6 Mary Jane Butler
- 10/11 Bob Schneeman
- 10/23 Donna Masterson
- 10/23 Billie Ruth Hodges
- 10/24 John Mark McLaughlin
- 10/25 Mark Findlay
- 10/27 Shirley Foxcroft
- 10/28 Jeannette Anaya
- 10/31 Pam Jennings



**November Agnus Dei Deadline is October 15**



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