

Father Bernie Lindley

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Church

This is Father Bernie Lindley from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, for Voices.

Earlier this summer I bought a car for \$400. It is a 1988 Honda CRX that has been spray painted flat black. The body is in tough shape. The driver's seat is worn through to the metal frame in places. But, it runs pretty good, has a 5-speed manual transmission, and is really fun to drive. The speedometer reads 15 miles an hour faster than the actual speed, so I think I'm really moving when I'm barely going the speed limit.

I got it for two reasons: I've always liked that body style and the gas mileage is almost three times better than my pickup. I also like the fact that I don't have to worry about getting door dings in the Fred Meyer parking lot.

When I bought the car the seller handed me the owner's manual that had come with the car when it was new. I opened it to the first page and it had the names of the original owners and the town where they bought it 30 years ago. It said, "William and Janet Smith, Indio, California."

That is the same William Smith that became the vicar of our very own St. Timothy's in 1995. That car was only 7 seven years old when Bill and Janet moved here.

It just amazes me that the vicar's car has found it's way home to once again become the vicar's car—worn for sure, but still running pretty good. The car does have quirks. The worst of which is that the passenger side door sometimes flies open during sharp left-hand turns.

There must be some metaphor in all this. As I drive through town, cringing every time I turn left, wondering if the passenger door will fly open in the middle of traffic and get torn off by the car beside me.