



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – April 2008

## May Easter Flowers Bring April Showers

The flowers in the Churches this Easter Sunday were spectacular. Many thanks to David Hance, Odell Missildine, Thelma Hoyle, and others who helped. During our dry weather, the beauty of flowers stands out even more as we wait for rain.



## K.C. Avery wins Granddads Golf Tournament

On a blustery March 3, 2008, the first Jack Probst Invitational High School Golf Tournament was held on the golf course in Lajitas. Jack's granddaughter K.C. Avery won the individual medalist honors and led the Indians to the girls championship. Regan Reed was the host coach. Kayln



Stephens, granddaughter of Ted and Francis Harper, also played in the Tournament. Jack Probst was a member of St. James' until his death. K.C.'s mother Judy Probst has been Bishop's Warden for the Big Bend Mission and is currently president of the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua. K.C. lives in Ft. Davis with her mother Jennifer and stepfather Joe.

## New Service Time in Lajitas

The Sunday service time at Sts. Mary & Joseph's Chapel in Lajitas was changed from 9am to 11am on Sunday, March 2nd. Some new faces have been seen in the congregation.



## St. James' Hosts Seder Supper

On Maundy Thursday evening about 20 people gathered at St. James' Alpine for a traditional Seder Supper. "Seder" is a Hebrew word meaning "order". The Passover Seder, relives the enslavement and subsequent Exodus of the Children of Israel from Ancient Egypt. Many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare for and to clean up after this event.



## Healing Venture at St. James'

As a follow-up to the Healing Mission in Clovis, NM, members of the Order of St. Luke here at St. James' feel they are being called to share Christ's healing ministry with all members of the Big Bend Mission, as well as with Christians of any denomination. They have been preparing for this outreach during the last three years, and they offer these services as an adjunct to the monthly healing service.



First, in accordance with the letter of St. James (5:14,15), "Is there anyone who is sick? He should send for the church elders who will pray for him and rub olive oil on him in the name of the Lord. . . ." If you are ill and would like prayer with laying on of hands and anointing, you may call on an OSL member to visit you in your home, in the hospital, or in the nursing home. In accordance with the Gospel of Luke (10:1,8,9), OSL members will travel "two by two" on these healing ventures.

Second, beginning on April 26th, and every fourth Saturday of the month thereafter, a healing team of OSL members will be present at St. James' Church from 11 a.m. to noon to anoint with oil and/or lay on hands with prayer for anyone who desires it. No appointment is necessary. You may receive anointing and laying on of hands for yourself or as an intercessor for someone else who is ill.

If you desire any of these services, please call one of the following members of OSL: Nancy Antrim, 837-1389; Walter Frerck, 837-5779; Thelma or Al Hoyle, 837-2088; Virginia Knab, 837-5020; Bonnie McNamara, 837-5619 This group is ready now to serve you in Christ's name and to give God the glory. Please call on them.

**Last Month's Question:** What is "Whitsunday?"

**Answer:** "Whitsunday" is another name for the day of Pentecost celebrated seven weeks after Easter. The name derives from the white garments which were worn by those who were baptized.

**This Month's Question:** What is the "Feast of Weeks"?

## Gardening Project comes to Casa de la Rosa

Inspired by Wendell Berry's call to "think small," Tom and Don have completed a small greenhouse at Casa de la Rosa. Fresh produce is the primary goal of the greenhouse, and the structure offers protection from late freezes, wind, hail and varmints. Javelina and deer find anything here a smorgasbord so some protection was needed for any gardening project. Don is utilizing the organic 'square foot' gardening approach which provides for dense production in small areas. Our thanks to the Burgess' for their contribution of compost to get the project sprouting.



### Hard Questions

Healing is a major theme in scripture. It seems to come in two varieties, physical and emotional. The two are often related. Physical states affect emotional states and emotional states influence physical states. The dramatic and miraculous accounts of healing in the New Testament capture our imagination easily. Most of us are pretty attached to our bodies. Any physical cure carries a lot of weight with us, especially if it avoids pain and suffering. Jesus seems to know the power healing has to get our attention. In the account of the man born blind and the miracle of the raising of Lazarus, and on other occasions, Jesus makes it clear that physical healing is not an end in itself. The Glory of God is revealed through physical healing. When a patient with a terminal disease is suddenly cured, it gets our attention much more effectively than when our neighbor quietly repents and returns to God.

However, physical healing is always temporary. Our bodies all die in spite of any physical cure, miraculous or not. While stories of physical healing are found here and there through out scripture, the entire Bible is about another kind of miraculous healing. The miracle that God works for throughout the Old and New Testaments is the healing of our broken relationship with Him. This kind of cure is emotional. It is about our fears and who we trust. It is not temporary. It is eternal.

If there is a danger with healing, it is that we ask God to maintain our physical existence, so we can continue to distance ourselves from Him. In his book *Wild Man to Wise Man*, Richard Rohr says "Physical healing is always a call to inner change, a change of heart, a change of direction." Too often our prayers for healing seem to be inspired by accounts of Jesus healing the sick, the paralyzed, the insane, and even the dead. These are mere footnotes to the real miracle, that God sent is only begotten son that we might be reconciled to Him for all eternity. - Seth



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