



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – December 2005

## New Windows Celebrate 50 Years at St. James'



The first Sunday service at St. James' with the new stained glass windows installed was celebrated on November 13, 2005 which also happened to be the 50th anniversary of the laying of the corner stone for the current St. James' building. Stained glass artist and Big Bend resident Jeff Smith was in attendance. The windows were dedicated and the service was followed by a celebration in the parish hall. Jeff Smith answered questions about his work.



## Betty Reed Returns to Otra Vez

Since the unexpected death of Maxine Haislip earlier this year, the volunteers at the Otra Vez Thrift Shop have carried on valiantly. Donated items have been arriv-



ing regularly and the shop has been open most every other week. No one volunteer has had the time to provide general oversight and management of the shop and sometimes that job has fallen to Judy and Elaine.

Betty Reed spent some time in the Big Bend last Winter and volunteered at the shop. Betty has now moved to the Big Bend and her extra help with the shop is already making a difference. Many thanks to Betty for offering her talents to help us advance this important ministry.

## Boys and Girls Club of Terlingua Purchases New Van with United Thank Offering Grant

Earlier this year the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church approved a grant for the purchase of a van to provide transportation for the Big Bend Youth Club. The Youth Club has been renamed The Big Bend Boys and Girls Club (see article on page two.) Rogers Ford in Midland was very helpful in locating a new 12 passenger van at an attractive price. The van will be used for field trips and other club activities. The United Thank Offering also provided a grant for furniture at the Big Bend Library in 2002.



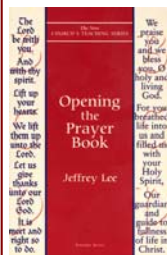
## Early Thanksgiving

Members of Sts. Mary & Joseph's Church in Lajitas hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at Elaine Ponton's this year. Ruth Gibson came from Dallas for the occasion.



## St. James' Book Club Studies Prayer Book

The St. James' Book Club is beginning a study of the Book of Common Prayer using *Opening the Prayer Book* by Jeffrey Lee. The group will meet at 10am on Sunday, December 4th in the St. James' parish hall to discuss chapters one and two. The book is now available for purchase in the parish hall. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For additional information contact Virginia Knab or Charlotte Harris.



## Flowers For Christmas

As we approach the Christmas season, St. James' Altar Guild members are looking forward to enhancing the beauty of our lovely new windows in the chancel with an appropriate display of poinsettias. If you wish to contribute toward the purchase of Christmas flowers, please make your contribution by December 15th.



The suggested donation is \$10 per plant. Make your check payable to St. James' and indicate that it is for flowers. Put it on the collection plate or give/mail it to Thelma Hoyle, P.O. Drawer 1628, Alpine, TX 79831. If you are giving the flowers in memory or in honor of someone, please write their name or names on a separate sheet of paper and enclose it with your contribution.

*(St. Paul's members, please purchase poinsettias individually and bring them to St. Paul's before Christmas Eve. If you have names you would like remembered, please get them to the Vicar no later than December 19th.)*

**Last Month's Question:** Why do we pray for the dead?

**Answer:** We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.

**This Month's Question:** What is Grace?

## Mission Group Hosts Quiet Day

A group of Big Bend Mission members will be hosting a "quiet day" on Saturday, December 3rd at the First Christian Church facility west of the courthouse in Marfa. The day starts with "Vigils" at 6:30am and concludes at 2pm with departing prayers. The day will include time for quiet reflection and prayer. The event is open to everyone. Come for the whole day or just part. Simple meals will be provided. For more information, speak with Tom Graf, Aurie West, or Charlotte Harris.



## Youth Club Promised BGCA Status

The Big Bend Youth Club will soon be chartered by Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). The staff of the club has been working toward this goal for over a year and is currently soliciting pledges of financial support to make the final hurdle. Once chartered, the club will be in line for grants, staff training, youth programs, and other critical support from BGCA. The club has been re-named the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua in anticipation of this transition. BGCA Regional Service Director, Michael Coffman visited the club on September 27th and put his stamp of approval on the new club status pending sufficient local financial support.

The club has grown steadily in size and added new programs including "Canoe Your Way to Better Reading." Big Bend River Tours donated a canoe to the club which has been set up as a place for members to snuggle up and read a book (see photo.) For each 20 minutes of reading, the youth receive a star on their chart and help them qualify for special outings and parties.



## Virginia Knab awarded Green Belt

St. James' member, Virginia Knab, successfully completed her rank test in Croft Ryu (style) martial arts. Following the test, she and three other students were awarded their green belts by 6th Dan, Sensei Allen Croft.

This style of martial arts integrates components of many fighting systems to achieve maximum effectiveness. These include Brazilian *(continued on back of calendar)*

## Participants in Big Bend Studies

Two people who attend St. James' participated in the 12th annual conference of the Center for Big Bend Studies on November 11th and 12th. Dr. Laura Butler and Elizabeth McBride spoke at the concluding session presented by the Languages and Literature Department at Sul Ross State University.

Dr. Butler recently joined the faculty of Sul Ross as an *(continued on back of calendar)*



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
©Ed Sullivan  
Reprinted with permission

## The Circuit Rider

The Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

HC 65, Box 272  
Alpine, TX 79830  
888/BIG-BEND  
(432/371-2255)

judith@brooksdata.net  
eponton@brooksdata.net  
seth@equimax.com

## Virginia Knab (continued)



jiu-jitsu, karate, wing chun, boxing, judo, and muay thai. Virginia's special focus is Kobudo, that is, training with Okinawan weapons derived from agricultural tools. This practice originated during times when the ownership of weapons by the populace was prohibited. To

protect their farms and families, the Okinawans learned to use what was at hand. The Japanese katana (long sword) is also a part of Kobudo. During the rank test, Virginia performed a kata with a pair of tonfa--a wooden handle originally used to turn a millstone. She also demonstrated proficiency in techniques of striking, kicking, falling, throwing, applying joint-locks, and self-defense. The rank test ended with light sparring and grappling.

Having had some prior experience in judo, karate, and tai chi chu'an, when Virginia found her life out of balance, she decided to return to the martial arts. The benefits have been improved endurance, weight loss, stress relief, fun, and the good-natured camaraderie of her dojo family. She is grateful to her teacher and mentor, Sensei Croft; to the students with whom she trains; and to her always encouraging family and friends.

## Big Bend Studies (continued)



instructor in creative writing. She read one of her autobiographical essays. Elizabeth McBride read a passage from a book she is writing about southwest Texas and, in this instance, about the beauty and healing effects of the natural world in this area.

The session included two other presenters, Blair Pittman and writer-in-residence, David Wilkinson.



**Hospitality is more than being kind and making someone feel welcome. It is being attentive to another's welfare.**

*adapted from The Sacred Art of Listening by Kay Lindhal*



Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
HC 65, Box 272  
Alpine, TX 79830