



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – February 2008

New Window at St. Paul's Honors Harpers

A new stained glass window has been installed at St. Paul's. It was given by the family of Ted and Frances Harper in their honor. Ted and Frances have been members of St. Pauls for most of their lives.



Frances was born in Marfa where her father worked for the Post Office. Ted was born in the South Texas town of Rio Frio, but came to the Big Bend at the age of 19 to settle at the Carrizal Ranch. When asked if they were married at St. Paul's, Frances said "No. Some people broke in



to the sacristy and drank some of the communion wine and the Priest was fired." They were married in the Methodist Church in Marfa. Ted was Senior Warden at St. Paul's for 29 years. The Harpers are cattle ranchers and spent many years raising Palomino horses which they sold all over the United States. One of their horses went on to be the stunt double for Roy Roger's horse *Trigger*.

Lenten Study at St. James'

During Lent this year we will be looking at the book of Isaiah. Tuesday evening meetings in the St. James's Parish Hall will begin with a light pot-luck supper and continue each Tuesday during Lent at 6pm in the St. James' Parish Hall.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. The supper will be followed by a presentation and discussion of parts of this challenging book. No advance reading is required, but please bring your Bible. Everyone is welcome.



Needs for Otra Vez and the Boys & Girls Club

At the annual meeting, some folks asked to be reminded about donations needed at the Otra Vez Thrift Store and the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua. Otra Vez needs household items

such as flatware, kitchen utensils, pots, pans, small appliances, sheets, towels, and other useful items. Generally there has been a good flow of clothing, so keep it up while you think about household items.

The Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua needs your financial assistance.



Mail donations to BGCT, P.O. Box 421, Terlingua, TX 79852, or give your donation to Seth, Judy, or Elaine. St. James's has been donating snacks and they are much appreciated. Anyone wishing to donate snacks may leave them in the basket in the St. James's Parish Hall, or the office at St. Paul's.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Big Bend Episcopal Mission was held at St. Paul's on Sunday January 24th. The festivities included a silent auction of "kneeler" benches (see separate article), the Vicar's report, financial reports, and reports from the St. James' Prayer Fellowship, The Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua, and the Threshold. It was announced that Dedie Taylor will be rotating off the Bishop's committee (see separate article). Pat Well has been appointed to replace her. Aurie West and Charlotte Harris were elected to serve as delegates to Diocesan convocation with Tom Graf and Melissa Williams as alternates. The meeting was followed by a hearty meal. See picture gallery on page two.



Mission Outreach Totals \$15,000 for 2007

For the year 2007 the Big Bend Mission distributed over \$15,000.00 to charitable causes across the area and around the world. The major amounts included \$3235.00 for transporting people to medical appointments in the church van, \$4567.00 in sales for donated clothing and household items through the Otra Vez Thrift Store, \$2335.00 to aid needy individuals in the community through the Big Bend Mission Discretionary Account, and \$842.00 to the U.T.O. of the Episcopal Church. Other beneficiaries included the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua through donations of cash and snacks, and the church in Jerusalem through the D.F.M.S. We currently have over \$3000 set aside for distribution in our Millenium Development Fund. Many thanks to everyone who has made it possible for the Big Bend Mission to serve the wider community in meaningful and concrete ways.

Debie Taylor Retires

As of January 24th, Debie Taylor has rotated off of the Big Bend Mission Bishop's Committee and has retired as Bishop's Warden. Many thanks Debie for your cheerful "lets get it done" attitude and all your practical help. Debie will be replaced as Bishop's Warden by Virginia Knab. Virginia is already off and running, and promises to fill Debies quite large shoes (figuratively speaking) very well. Don't forget, Virginia has a Green Belt in Croft Ryu (style) martial arts.



Annual Meeting Gallery



Thanks to Al Hoyle for helping with photos!

Last Month's Question: What are "Rogation days"?

Answer: Rogation days are festivals devoted to special prayers for the crops; they include the Major Rogation on April 25th and the Minor Rogations on the three days before Ascension Day (40th day after Easter).

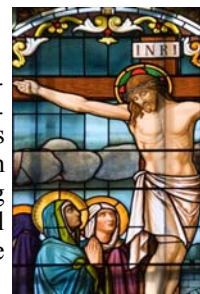
This Month's Question: What are "Ember days."

Benches Bring \$1150.00

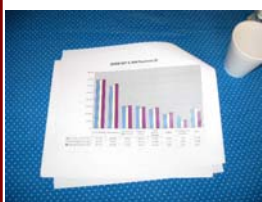
Thanks to the dedication and creativity of Steve Matheson and his wife, several benches were sold at silent auction at the annual meeting netting a total of \$1150.00 for the St. James' Memorial Fund. The benches were constructed entirely out of materials from the old kneelers which were replaced at St. James' late last year.



Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at St. James' each Thursday during Lent at 5:15pm. The Activities committee of the Threshold has voted to do Stations of the Cross at Casa de la Rosa each Friday during Lent at 6:00pm including on Good Friday. A soup and salad supper will follow at no cost. There will be no Stations of the Cross celebration at St. Paul's this year.



Betsy Burns Makes Finances Easy



Many thanks to Betsy Burns for producing graphs showing budget, income, and expenses for the Big Bend Mission.

Everyone at the annual meeting was pleased with how easy it was to understand our finances due to Betsy's visual representations. Betsy has also been helpful with graphs that show the activity of the Big Bend Mission Medical van. We are hopeful that the Medical Van will be replaced by public transportation in 2008.



Hard Questions

When can God do his greatest work in us? When we are feeling confident, decided, righteous, self satisfied or smug, there is little God can do. When we are anxious, uncertain, vulnerable, questioning, and unconfident, God can step in and lift us up with His love. So often we think that times of uncertainty are to be avoided. As we learn to appreciate what God can do and when we are most ready for Him to do it, we learn to value those times when we feel a little out of control. They become nothing more than advance notices of Gods greatest work in us.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Do caterpillars know they're going to be butterflies, or does God surprise them?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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