



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – July 2008

Diocese Hires Frey as Assisting Bishop

The retired Bishop of Colorado, the Rt. Rev. William C. Frey, has agreed to serve as Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of the Rio Grande during the search process for a new Diocesan Bishop. Frey will spend 10 days a month in the diocese "providing those sacramental ministries reserved for a bishop, making visitations to parishes, and providing counsel to the Standing Committee as requested." Frey, 78, served as bishop of the Diocese of Colorado from 1973 to 1990. He has also been president of Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. He and his wife currently live in San Antonio, Texas.



More Transitions

"Was it something we said?" In the past few months a number of Big Bend Mission parishioners have picked up stakes and moved to other parts of the country. The moves have all been for retirement, health, and family reasons.

This month we said goodbye to Pat and Brian McMurray of St. Paul's as they moved to Oregon for retirement.



Soon Jo Lynn Suell of St. James' will be relocating to Alabama to care for her aging parents.

Local Order of St. Luke Sponsors Healing Mission

The Big Bend Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) is hosting a healing mission on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at the First Presbyterian Church of Alpine.



OSL is an international, ecumenical organization of lay people and clergy dedicated to a healing ministry as modeled by Our Lord Jesus Christ. The objective of this mission is to participate in the Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ. God wants all of us to be well, and Jesus spent much of the time of His ministry and His life healing those sick in body, mind, and spirit. Come expecting a healing!

The Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield and Anna Marie Sheffield of Deep River Ministries based in San Antonio, Texas will be the mission leaders. Anna Marie is on the OSL North American Board of Directors, and Jack is OSL Regional Director of Region 5 which encompasses AR, LA, KS, TX, OK, and CO. He has published two books on healing, and another will be published this summer. Jack Sheffield will preach at the regular Sunday service at St. James' on Sunday August 24, 2008. *(continued on page two)*

Boys & Girls Club Focuses on Ft. Davis

About a year ago, the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua began negotiations with Toi Fisher of Ft. Davis, a remarkable woman who has been serving the youth of Ft. Davis for three years through an after school program based in the county library. With the full cooperation of the Jeff Davis County government, the Jeff Davis School District, and lots of Ft. Davis parents and children, plans are now in place to transform the existing Ft. Davis after school program into a full fledged youth development organization by making the Ft. Davis program the major focus of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua. With support for a Terlingua club on the wane, the board has decided to suspend operations in Terlingua for the time being and concentrate on getting the Ft. Davis operation rolling. Subject to Boys & Girls Clubs of America approval, the new name for The Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua will be the Boys & Girls Club de la Frontera. Beth Garcia will continue as Chief Professional Officer and Judy Probst will continue as president of the board of directors.



We wish everyone all the best in your new locations. We already miss you.

Judy and Elaine thank everyone for their prayers and concern during their hospitalizations.

Church Van Comes to the End of the Road

Effective June 30th, the Big Bend Mission Medical Services van ceased operation. For the past few years, the van has been providing non-emergency medical transportation to members of the south Brewster County community who cannot afford or cannot provide their own transportation.



Plans are nearly complete for the Big Bend Community Action group to take over the routes the church van has been covering. Thanks in part to the dedicated work of Betsy Burns, plans for locating a van in South Brewster County are in the works. Drivers are being interviewed and trip schedules are being prepared. Anyone in need of transportation should contact Emma Vasquez at the Community Action Neighborhood Center, 200 West San Antonio Street, Marfa: (432)729-4908.

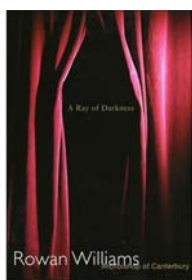
Last Month's Question: Who were the Essenes?

Answer: The Essenes were a Jewish religious sect not actually mentioned in the Bible, but described by Josephus, Philo, and mentioned in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most members lived communal, celibate lives. They observed Jewish Law very strictly. They practiced ceremonial baptisms. Essenes were apocalyptic, and they opposed Temple priesthood.

This Month's Question: What were the Dead Sea Scrolls?

St. Paul's Summer Reading

While the study group at St. Paul's is on break for the summer they invite everyone to read *A Ray of Darkness* by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.



Healing Mission (continued from page one)

The Sheffields recommend "deliberate and intentional intercession... during the event" that "can open the heavens and bring a strong anointing that ends up surprising everyone in attendance." For anyone unable to attend in person, there will be opportunities to support the healing mission in prayer (15 minute commitments from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm the day of the mission). Even a distant friend or relative might be interested.



There will also be opportunities for those who are willing to direct prayer traffic at the event. This involves directing those standing in line for prayers during the Healing Service to any empty prayer team. "It is helpful to praise God that it is He alone who heals, and to ask the Holy Spirit to direct the people who want prayer to the team God chooses for them." To volunteer, speak with Thelma Hoyle. Volunteers to contribute a salad or dessert for the lunch at the event are also needed. Sign up sheets for volunteers will be provided at a later date.

Healing Mission Schedule

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2008, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Leaders: The Rev. Dr. Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 103 E. Lockhart Ave., Alpine, TX 79830

Cost: A free will offering will be taken

Food: During registration (9:00-9:30am) - coffee, juice, pastries
Lunch - salads & desserts

For more information contact:

Virginia Knab (432) 386-6235 or e-mail vmknab@gmail.com



Hard Questions

The Church has a dark side. Someone has said, "Until you know your demons, you will never know your angels." A similar thought can be expressed about the Church. Until you know the dark side of the Church, you may not fully appreciate its potential to bring light. All that glitters in the Church is not spiritual gold. Here are some clues which may help identify the dark side. (1) If someone implies that "everyone agrees" or "all intelligent people think a certain way", be suspicious. (2) If someone has a big smile on their face, uses lots of religious language, and asks you to follow their way of thinking, proceed with caution. (3) If someone says that having the right amount of faith should give you the power to work miracles, take a another look. (4) If someone suggests that following Jesus will make your life free of cares and troubles, run the other way. (5) If a spiritual teacher lacks patience and humility, consider this a red flag. (6) If anyone suggests that you have to do something to earn the love of God, don't believe it. (7) If anyone offers you a "spiritual service" such as praying for you to influence God to provide you with what you want, raise serious questions. The Church is full of points of light. To see them clearly, identify the shadows. - Seth

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Every day God lets some of the water out so there's room to play on the beach."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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