



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – June 2005

Youth Club Gets U.T.O. Grant to Purchase Van

The Big Bend Youth Club got the news a few days ago that the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church (UTO) approved a grant of \$29,125 for the purchase of a van for Club use. The van will be used for field trips and travel to events away from the Club. Club Executive Director Beth Garcia is excited about the grant which she applied for through the Big Bend Episcopal Mission earlier this year.



Beth Garcia with UTO grant letter and Big Bend Youth Club members Shane Suttles, James Willingham, Nick Suttles, Patrick Taff

In their letter to the Club, the UTO says: "The United Thank Offering is a gift of love to you and from you. The grant comes to you through grateful prayer and giving by Episcopalians throughout the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, South America, Taiwan and the United States. Your efforts make the money come alive in your own place in your own way. That is your gift of love."

Money for United Thank Offering grants is traditionally collected each year in Episcopal Churches including the churches of the Big Bend Mission. This is not the first time that the UTO has funded projects in the Big Bend. Furniture at the Big Bend Library at the Terlingua School was paid for by a grant from the UTO.



Meredith Nelson will be doing a six week practicum at a veterinary dental clinic at Highway 620 Animal Clinic in Austin and then graduating with an Associates degree in Veterinary Technology from Sul Ross State University in August. Go Meredith!

The Vicar has been re-elected as President of the Big Bend Education Corporation and will be working on raising money for a combination Cafeteria, Auditorium, Gymnasium at the Big Bend High School. Go Judy!

Congratulations to Mark Scott for Graduating from Marfa High School!

Work days at St. James' and St. Paul's

On Saturday May 14th at St. James' and Saturday May 21st at St. Paul's members turned out for a work day to accomplish many of those little jobs that never seem to



get done. Bushes were trimmed, cupboards were organized, gutters were cleaned, pews were repaired. At St. James' an old storage shed was removed



to make way for a replacement. At St. Paul's an effort was made to dig up some stumps. Unfortunately the stumps won, and are still in the ground to fight another day. Many thanks to all who helped.

Web Site Members Directory has New Security Feature

If you've ever been embarrassed by not remembering someone's name, the Big Bend Mission web site Members Directory just might be able to help. It contains names and photographs of lots of Big Bend Mission members. Just point your web browser to

www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

and click on "Directory of Members and Friends."

If you need a phone number or address, that information is available too, but a user name and password is now required for access to that part of the Directory. This new security feature was put in place to discourage email spammers and identity thieves. To access this section use the following log-in combination:

User Name: [tellmemore](mailto:tellmemore@bigbendepiscopalmission.org)
Password: [holyspirit](mailto:holyspirit@bigbendepiscopalmission.org)
(must be entered in all lower case letters.)

To add or change your photo in the directory, or to add or change your other information, send an email to:

judith@brooksdata.net

Last Month's Question: What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

Answer: By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

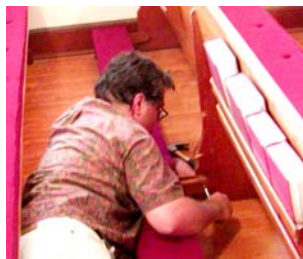
This Month's Question: How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

Do you have a question about the faith or about the church? Give us your question and the answer will appear in the newsletter. There are no dumb questions and no question is too difficult. Ask about those things you have always wondered about but have been afraid to ask, or those things you have been meaning to ask but never had the occasion. All questioners will remain anonymous. Give your questions to the Vicar or send them to:
judith@brooksdata.net

**Stump
the
Vicar**



Work Days



Hard Questions

In the April issue of *The Circuit Rider* I wrote about Jesus being tempted by the devil to throw himself down from the tower of the Temple and trust in God to save Him. Several people commented on that article, and I got to thinking. So often we are tempted to put God to the test by choosing our own agenda, expecting God to go along, and calling our expectation "faith." Nowhere has this seemed more evident to me in recent years than in our reading and interpreting of the Bible. As Christians, "we understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures." (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 853). However, to think that we completely understand or definitively understand Holy Scripture and then call our reliance on our understanding "faith" is nothing more than throwing ourselves off the Tower of the Temple and expecting God to save us. The more I read and study the Bible in depth, the more I am impacted by the unfathomable mystery of God, and the less sure I am about my own understanding. Is this lack of faith? On the contrary, the less sure I am about my own understanding, the more I am left with "nothing but faith." When we read and study Scripture we should expect growth in the spirit and increase in our understanding. But, to think we have a complete understanding, or even a partial understanding that gives us the right to judge others, is simply to fall in love with our own agenda and put God to the test. We serve a living God full of surprises who can't be definitively "figured out", not a god of our own understanding who we can put to the test and call it faith. - Seth



"Since my recent conversion, I was informed that I've inherited the riches of Heaven. Now I'm worried about sudden wealth syndrome."

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



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