



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – March 2008

St. James' Members Attend Healing Mission

Several members of St. James' attended the first annual Healing Mission held at St. James' Episcopal Church in Clovis, NM, on February 15 and 16, 2008. The Rev. Nigel Mumford, Director of Healing Ministry at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich, NY was the presenter and keynote speaker.



Alpine Churches Hold "Fair" to Build Playground

The churches of Alpine are holding a "country fair" to help build a playground for the children at the orphanage in Ojinaga, Mexico. The fair will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Alpine, March 29th from 9am until 5pm. The church is located on Highway 118 just north of the True Value Hardware Garden Center.

Hand made things such as baked goods, white elephants, and Christmas items are needed for the sale. Donated items are being received from March 24th through March 28th and can be brought to the Presbyterian Church or to Ann Vandreamels residence at 605 East Avenue B in Alpine. For more information, contact Ann at 432-634-2433.

Seder Supper

March 20th - St. James' - 6pm
follows the 5pm
Maundy Thursday Service

Relive the Exodus as a
personal spiritual event!

See how this tradition has
shaped our liturgy.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 16th
Regular Service Times

Maundy Thursday, March 20th
St. James' - 5pm
Seder Supper - 6pm

Good Friday, March 21st
St. Paul's - Noon | St. James' - 3pm

Easter Day, March 23rd
Regular Service Times

Lenten Study Continues

Each Tuesday during Lent we are studying the book of Isaiah. The study group meets at 6 p.m. in the parish hall at St.



James's starting with a light pot-luck supper. Each study session is open to everyone. Come to as many or as few as you like. Experience the power of mutual invitation.

Otra Vez Staging Begins Move to Store

The Otra Vez staging and storage area has begun its move from the former Haislip residence to the store location on the church land in Study Butte. With much jacking, winching, and transporting, the storage container was moved and set up behind the store.



Additional covered work space will be provided in the coming weeks. The move will consolidate the operation into one location and eliminate the need for transporting items back and forth by car.

"I attended an Easter dinner with friends of various religious backgrounds. Three were Disciples of Christ, one was a Baptist, I'm a Roman Catholic, and another guest was Jewish. Our hostess said grace before our meal and ended it with these words, 'In Christ's name we pray.' She quickly apologized to her Jewish guest for using the Christian ending to her prayer.

"That's okay," her Jewish guest replied. "He was one of our boys.."

- Joseph Basehart, Centennial, CO

Nursing Home Wish List

The activity director of the nursing home in Alpine has provided us with a wish list of needed items. The list is posted on the bulletin board in the St. James' Parish Hall. Donated items can be dropped off at the nursing home, or give them to Ann VanDreumel.

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

Answer: In the liturgical calendar of the Western Christian churches, **Ember days** are the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of four weeks out of the year. The four weeks are the week between the third and fourth Sundays of Advent, the week between the first and second Sundays of Lent, the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, and the calendar week after Holy Cross Day (September 14). These days, set apart for special prayer and fasting, were considered especially suitable for the ordination of clergy.

This Month's Question: What is "Whitsunday"?

Reminder

Thanks to the generosity of Georgette Spoons, the Big Bend Mission has a hospital bed available for anyone who might need one. If you are convalescing and need the bed, let the Vicar know.

Quick Wonderings

"I've been wondering: Can a motel in Hawaii legally serve a continental breakfast?"

"Can a person get the same amount of sleep in less time at a Holiday Inn Express?"

Sam Laswell -Redford, MI

"God save us from hotheads who would lead us foolishly, and from clode fee that would keep us from adventuring at all."

Peter Marshall - via Apple Seeds

"The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down."

Author Unknown

Fairwell to the Peisers

Long time Marfa residents and St. Paul's church members Bill and Beverly Peiser have moved to a retirement facility in San Angelo. A farewell luncheon was held at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 24th. True to form, Beverly brought food for the meal.



Sometimes when people leave the area, we wish them well and move on. We wish the Peisers well, but moving on without them will mean filling a big hole in our lives. We thank you Bill and Beverly for all you have done to make Marfa and the St. Paul's community a better place.



Hard Questions

One of our readers writes: "In reading the meditation for today in Forward Day to Day and listening to the Readings in church this morning, I am reminded that, like Judas, I always thought that Adam got a bad rap for what happened in the Garden of Eden with the serpent and the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Eve is the one who was tempted by the serpent and Eve plucked and ate of the fruit and gave some to Adam, who also ate. But generally Adam gets the bad publicity."

In the story, of Adam, Eve, and the apple, it is equally as easy to point out that Adam was right there with Eve and didn't stop her. He also readily accepted the apple from her without any objection. However, the story is not about who is to blame, it is about who we trust. The story is about what happens to all of us when we decide to put our trust in ourselves instead of in God.

We have a word for this realignment of our trust; the word is "sin." Sin is fundamentally the attempt to replace the relationship that God offers us with something of lesser value. In Adam and Eve's case, replacing the loving guidance of their creator with their own substandard analysis. Sin is always a substitution of something substandard for something more glorious. In common understanding, sin tends to be thought of as something we, as Christians, are supposed to stop. In effect, we are supposed to simply stop the substandard substitute and live without. In reality, sin cannot be stopped, it must be replaced. We need air to breath. If the air is polluted, the solution is not to stop breathing. The solution is to find better air.

During Lent we are called to take another look at our lives and "repent"; to see our lives in a new way. As we sift through our choices in life and find that we have substituted sin for the love of God, maybe we should ask; "what is the "real thing" that we have missed?" How does the love of God provide something more glorious than what we have chosen?

- Seth

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I liked seeing Jesus in the manger better."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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