



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – May 2008

Pets Gather at St. James'

On Saturday April 26, 2008, parishioners in the Big Bend Mission brought their pets to St. James' for a "Blessing of the Animals." Everyone was well behaved including the pets. Each owner introduced their pet(s), and gave a little information about how they had met their pet. Cats were in the minority, but were very clear that "cats rule and dogs drool." Rumor has it that there may another service for equines some time in the future. (more photos on back of calendar)



French Girls Baptized

On Saturday March 29, 2008, Margot and Juliette French were baptized at the chapel



in Lajitas. The French girls are daughters of Marie and John French of Terlingua. We welcome the newly baptized.

Diocesan Search Committee Appointed

The Standing Committee has announced the appointment of a search committee for the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The Rev. Judith Burgess and Dedie Taylor will represent the churches of the Big Bend Mission. The first meeting of the Search Committee will be in Albuquerque in June.

The responsibilities of the search committee include: (1) Listening to voices across the Diocese of the Rio Grande to develop a profile which accurately describes the challenges, and embraces the hopes and the dreams of our community of faith. (2) To provide month reports to the Standing Committee. (3) To prayerfully discern the spiritual discipline, leadership skills and personal qualities



needed for the next Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. (4) To discern at least three qualified nominees who will be recommended to the Standing Committee for presentation at the Electing Convention.



Two other related committees are being formed, with membership to be announced: (1) A Reconciliation/Visioning committee charged with considering the past that has informed us and helping us discern ways in which we might move forward in responding to our baptismal covenant. (2) A Transition Committee to be responsible for the "walk-about" (introducing nominees to people of the diocese and provide opportunities for question and answer sessions), assist the new Bishop and family with transitioning into a new position, and with plans for the service of Consecration.

Is Anyone Sick?

Members of the Order of St. Luke want to remind everyone that they will be available at St. James' Church on Saturday, May 24, between 11 a.m. and noon for anyone who would like healing prayer, the laying on of hands, and/or anointing for themselves or others. As announced previously, starting in May, OSL members will be available on the 4th Saturday of every month at St. James'. No appointment is necessary.



In addition to the scheduled time given above, the OSL prayer team will be privileged to offer this same service to you in your home, in the hospital, or in the nursing home. You may receive anointing and laying on of hands with prayer for yourself or as an intercessor for someone else who is ill. (continued on page 2)

Good Bye Lunch for Penny Noepel

A potluck lunch to say good bye to Penny Noepel will be held after the Sunday service at St. James' on Sunday, May, 4th.

Is Anyone Sick

(continued from page one) One of the goals of the Order of St. Luke is to spread our Lord's healing ministry to all Christian denominations; therefore, the services of our group are being offered to everyone in the Mission area community. Our group urges you to take advantage of this healing ministry and to introduce it to a friend! God heals small needs as well as large!

For further information contact Nancy Antrim, 837-1389; Walter Frerck, 837-5779; Thelma or Al Hoyle, 837-2088; Virginia Knab, 837-5020; Bonnie McNamara, 837-5619. Our group is ready to serve you in Christ's name and to give God the glory. Please call on us.

Is there anyone who is sick? He should send for the church elders who will pray for him and rub olive oil on him in the name of the Lord. This prayer made in faith will heal the sick person. . . . St. James (5:14,15)

Last Month's Question: What is the "Feast of Weeks"?

Answer: The "Feast of Weeks" is the second of the three major Jewish festivals (the other two are Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles). It is observed 7 weeks from the second day of Passover. Acts 2 recorded the descent of the Holy Spirit on the first Feast of Weeks (also called Pentecost) after the resurrection of Christ.

This Month's Question: Who were the Sadducees?

Vicar Attends Second Clergy Leadership Project Event

Judith will be in Connecticut from May 3rd through May 10th to attend the second of four conferences put on by the Clergy Leadership Project and sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church, Wall Street. She will be studying at the Trinity Church Conference center in West Cornwall. Since her first meeting last October, she has been keeping in touch with other clergy in the project through monthly conference calls.



The speakers at this second meeting will be Dr. Hugh O'Doherty and Dr. Glenn McGee. Dr. O'Doherty teaches at the John F. Kennedy School of Government Center for Public Leadership. He was raised in Northern Ireland and has twenty-five years of experience in the field of conflict resolution as it pertains to the field of leadership especially in Northern Ireland, the United States, Cyprus, Israel and Canada. Dr. McGee holds the John A. Balint Endowed Chair in Medical Ethics, is Director of the New York Institute for Bioethics, Professor of Medical Ethics at the Albany Medical College, and Chief of the Office of Bioethics for the state of New York.

Seth Burgess Attends Men's Rite of Passage

During the first week of April, Seth spent four days at the John Knox Ranch near Fredericksburg and participated with 67 other men in a Men's Rite of Passage Event put on



by the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These events were started in the 1990's by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan of the Cincinnati Province, and internationally known retreat master, speaker and author. The Men's Rite of Passage

uses instruction, ritual, and silence to teach the hard lessons of Christian male initiation that are missing in Western culture. Although the event is open to men of all ages, there is an application process, and not all applicants are accepted. For more information, visit www.malespirituality.org.



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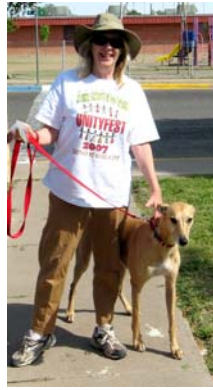
The Big Bend Episcopal Mission
HC 65, Box 272
Alpine, TX 79830
888/BIG-BEND (432/371-2255)

www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

judithlynn@rionet.coop
eponton@bigbend.net
seth@equimax.com

New Book at Prayer Fellowship

The Prayer Fellowship will begin discussion of a new book on May 6th. The Prayer Fellowship meets every Tuesday evening at 6 pm in the home of Al and Thelma Hoyle. The evening begins with a sack supper; then a devotional with prayers for healing for those on our Prayer List; and concludes with a book study. Our new book is *Channels of Healing: Studies for the People of God*, by Owen Dowling. "This is a delightful, clear, Biblically based book that highlights the healing quality and effects of the Bible from Genesis through Revelations. Bishop Dowling's commentary on each Scripture used in this exciting healing journey was clear, uncomplicated, yet extremely deep and meaningful. All are welcome and encouraged to come! Contact the Hoyles if you need directions. Rides can be arranged. For a book, call Virginia Knab at 837-5020.



The Pet Gallery



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