



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – November 2005

## St. James' Gets New Windows

Over the years, the St. James' Memorial Fund has received generous donations for special purposes primarily from the estates of deceased parishioners. Some of the proceeds of this fund are now being used to replace and enlarge the windows in the chan-

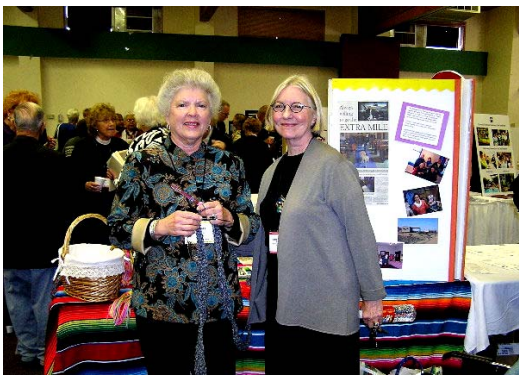


cel at St. James' with new stained glass windows designed by renowned stained glass artist and Big Bend resident Jeff Smith.

November 13, 2005 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone for the current St. James' church building. The installation and dedication of these windows will be an appropriate way to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the building. We hope to be able to dedicate the new windows on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the morning worship service. While the work is under way, Sunday services are being held in the St. James' Parish Hall. (See separate article.)

## Convocation Table a Popular Place to Visit

The annual Convocation of the Diocese of the Rio Grande was held at the Glorieta Retreat Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico on October 21st and 22nd. Aurie West, Libi Rhodes, Jack & Greta Murray, and Elaine Ponton attended from the Big Bend Mission. A table was set up in the exhibit area to showcase Mission activities and to



offer knitted stoles, Anglican rosaries and other home made items for sale. The effort raised over \$500. Many thanks to all who helped with this project.



## Letter from Debbie Steenson

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jeffrey and I just returned from a House of Bishops' meeting recently, and we met with the Bishops of the hurricane affected dioceses in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Assistance is still greatly needed and will be for a long time to come.

The most urgent and practical needs are still simply clothing, personal items, and household linens, towels, etc. The most inexpensive way to offer aid is through the purchase of gift cards from Target, Walmart, Penney's and Sears. One hundred dollar cards are the most needed. Perhaps, your churches may take up a collection to purchase some of these cards for these people who have lost everything. Some have asked about Lowe's or Home Depot, and the bishops have said that people are not even there yet, so those are not needed at this time. Phone cards are also not a great need. You may mail these cards to the following Bishops' spouses who are prepared to distribute them to the poor and needy:

Mrs. Louise Jenkins  
c/o of St. James Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 126  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0126

Mrs. Kathy Gray  
4735 Northhampton Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39201

Mrs. Susan McPherson  
6305 Morgan Oaks Court  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Mrs. Wendy Wimberly  
3515 Plumb  
Houston, TX 77005-2927

If your church would be interested in sending a team of people, including medical groups, teens, people for clean-up, you may contact Diane Livingston at [Dio.MS@ecunet.org](mailto:Dio.MS@ecunet.org) for information.

I pray you will continue to keep the victims of these hurricanes in the forefront of your minds and hearts for the future. If your church has some plans or ideas to share, please let us know.

In the love of Christ,  
Debbie Steenson

**Service of Lessons and Carols  
Combined with Holy Eucharist**

**First Sunday in Advent  
November 27th at 10:30 a.m.  
St. James' Church, Alpine**

Only one service in the Mission.  
**Mark Your Calendar Now!!**

**Big Bend Mission Van  
Gets Regular Use**

The Big Bend Mission van has been busy transporting non-emergency medical patients to Alpine, El Paso, and Midland/



Odessa. Since the Big Bend Mission took over the van from Patient Care Services earlier this year, twelve trips have been made to transport patients to doctor's appointments. The van has also been used by the Big Bend Youth Club during their summer camp and used to transport donations for the Otra Vez Thrift Store. Van expenses have been paid out of the Big Bend Mission Assistance Fund and the Maxine Haislip Memorial Assistance Fund. Volunteer drivers are needed from time to time. If you are interested in helping with this active ministry, talk to Judy or Elaine.

**Last Month's Question:** What are the benefits which we receive in the Lord's Supper?

**Answer:** The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is our nourishment in eternal life.

**This Month's Question:** Why do we pray for the dead?

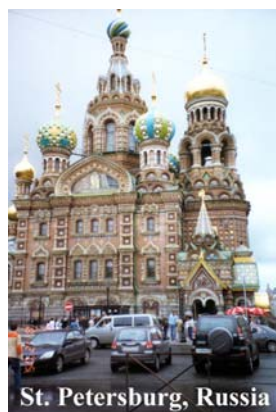
**St. James' Parish Hall Does Double Duty**

While the new windows are being installed in the sanctuary at St. James', parishioners have adjusted to Sunday services in the Parish Hall. Bill Smith rolled in the old pump organ and brought it back to life making a "joyful noise to the Lord"! One Holy Eucharist has been celebrated there and Thelma Hoyle and Bonnie McNamera have helped by leading Morning Prayer on the other Sundays. All the familiar furnishings for the worship service were at hand proving that the "place" doesn't change the purpose.



**VanDreumel Cruise**

Ann VanDreumel took a cruise with her daughter in August. She reports: "We flew to Seattle to spend a few days with my daughters before we flew to Copenhagen Denmark to meet the cruise ship for a 10 day cruise on Holland Americas' Westerdam. The first stop was in Tallinn, Estonia, a walled city built in the 13th century. Next was St. Petersburg, Russia, a city built on 13 rivers with 400 bridges. At Helsinki, Finland the harbor will not accommodate such a large ship so we boarded lifeboats. The water was quite rough coming back to the ship.



St. Petersburg, Russia

"We also stopped at Stockholm Sweden. At each port we took a guided tour. Cobble stone streets were common and have a real advantage in that if repairs have to be made, some of the stones are simply replaced, but I found them rather hard to walk on. The next stop was Visby Gotland, a small vacation island off the coast of Sweden with several campgrounds and many little vacation cottages available to rent for the Summer.



Visby, Sweden

"The last stop was Warnemunde, Germany, a Summer resort town. A 115 foot lighthouse is the town's landmark. Since most people pay taxes by the front footage of their houses, the houses are narrow but three or four floors high. Our plane back to Seattle didn't leave until three in the afternoon, so we took a tour of Copenhagen before we left for home. It is always interesting to visit buildings that were there before America was even thought of. People around the world have the same hopes and dreams. They worry about taxes and the future and build shrines to their faith."



## **Bug Season is Almost Over**

### *The Circuit Rider*

The Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
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