



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – November 2006

Labyrinth Ready for Contemplation

The labyrinth near St. James' is in place and ready for walking and contemplation. It is located in the block just west of the church and it is visible from the street. Walk west on the street to the north side of the church and you can't miss it. Many thanks to Mimi Smith, Libi Rhodes, Shere Whitley, Judy Probst, Liz Rogers and others who kept after this project and have the labyrinth ready for use.



Church to Welcome 26th Presiding Bishop

On Saturday, November 4th the Episcopal Church will "invest" Katherine Jefferts Schori as 26th Presiding Bishop. The service will be held at Washington National Cathedral, in Washington D.C.

The liturgy will be webcast at 11:00am Eastern time. The webcast can be viewed on computers with a broadband connection to the internet and with either Windows



Media Player or Real Player installed. There will also be an audio only version available. look for a direct link at www.episcopalchurch.org.



Bishop Jefferts Schori is a pilot and former research oceanographer with the National Marine Fisheries Service from the Pacific Northwest.

Convocation Commits to U.N. Millennium Goals

At the recent convocation of the Diocese of the Rio Grande delegates passed a resolution to "contribute at least 0.7% of its total income to agencies or ministries that seek to eradicate extreme poverty, in support of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals."



The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from eradicating extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. The goals are: (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, (2) Achieve universal primary education, (3) Promote gender equality and empower women, (4) Reduce child mortality, (5) Improve maternal health, (6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, (7) Ensure environmental sustainability, (8) Develop a global partnership for development. For more information, visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

Other diocesan resolutions included a resolution concerning "Equal Participation of Men and Women" in the life of the church. This in response to the Resolution 13/31 adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council at its meeting in Nottingham, England in June 2005.

For further information on resolutions passed at diocesan convocation and other activities around the diocese visit: <http://riogrande.anglican.org>.

Episcopal Life - Last Chance



Pat Wells of St. Paul's has collected 10 names of people who would like to subscribe to *Episcopal Life*, the monthly newspaper of the Episcopal Church. Reduced rate subscriptions at \$10 each will be sent in shortly. Contact Pat immediately at 432/729-4995 to be included in this group and save \$8.00 per year on your subscription.

The U.T. O. ingathering collected Sunday, October 1, 2006 in the Big Bend Mission totaled over \$1100.00. A check for this amount was presented at diocesan convocation.



Boys & Girls Club Gets Matching Grant

The Abell-Hanger Foundation of Midland, Texas has approved a matching grant for general operating expenses of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua. The Foundation has committed to match dollar for dollar (to a maximum of \$15,000) any donations raised from new sources prior to June 30, 2007. Qualifying gifts must be from private sources and must be for general operating expenses. Donations must be either from donors who have never contributed to the operating expenses of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua before, or donations from previous donors which exceed the amount of such donor's last gift. Donations must be made in cash or cash equivalents, and may not be donations of securities or other tangible or intangible properties.



The Abell-Hanger Foundation was incorporated by George Thomas Abell and his wife, Gladys Hanger Abell, in 1954. George Abell, a native of Kansas, moved to Midland in 1927 to work in the West Texas oilfields. Abell was a self-taught geologist who made a fortune as an independent oil producer. He was a dedicated and successful fund-raiser for a variety of charities, including the Midland Memorial Hospital and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Abell-Hanger matching grant and grants from other foundations, in partnership with local support are making it possible for the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua to move from a being a struggling local organization to being a nationally supported "positive place to be" in the lives of South Brewster county's youth.

Tax deductible donations to the matching grant for operating expenses may be sent to the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua, P.O. Box 421, Terlingua, TX 79852. No amount is too small. Make your check payable to the Boys & Girls Club Terlingua. For further information, stop by the club on highway 170, one mile west of the intersection with state route 118, call 432-371-2333, or contact club director, Beth Garcia, at bethgarcia@terlinguakids.org.

Episcopal Church Adopts Revised Lectionary

Starting with the First Sunday of Advent in 2007, the Episcopal Church will adopt the Revised Common Lectionary amending the lectionary shown on pages 889-921 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. A Lectionary is a table of readings from Scripture appointed to be read at public worship. The association of particular texts with specific days began in the 4th century. The Lectionary [1969, revised 1981] developed by the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II provided for a three-year cycle of Sunday readings. This Roman lectionary provided the basis for the lectionary in The Book of Common Prayer 1979 as well as those developed by many other denominations.



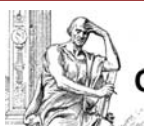
The Revised Common Lectionary, published in 1992, takes into account constructive criticism of the Common Lectionary based on the evaluation of its trial use and like the current prayer book lectionary is a three-year cycle of Sunday Eucharistic readings in which Matthew, Mark and Luke are read in successive years with some material from John read in each year. The Revised Common Lectionary preserves around 90% of the Gospel readings in the Lectionary of The Book of Common Prayer 1979.

The following churches are already using the Revised Common Lectionary: American Baptist Churches in the USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Anglican Church of Australia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ], Presbyterian Church in the USA, Christian Reformed Church in North America, United Church of Canada, Church of England, United Church of Christ, Anglican Church in South Africa, and the United Methodist Church.

Last Month's Question: What is the Summary of the Law?

Answer: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

This Month's Question: What is the New Commandment?



Hard Questions

What does a person look like when they have faith? There seem to be two common opinions about this. Some seem to say that faith is present when a believer is sure of herself and confident about knowing the will of God. Others would say that faith is present when a believer is unsure of himself, is in fearful circumstances, and yet trusts in God's protective love anyway. Faith may actually be present in either of these circumstances. Arrogance too may show up. Regardless of circumstances, it is when we shift our focus to God and away from ourselves that faith can really blossom. - Seth



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