



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – September 2005

## St. Paul's Ice Cream Social

The Marfa community turned out on Sunday, August 21st for the annual St. Paul's ice cream social. The weather was summer-like and the ice cream was cold. A bake sale organized by Sharon Livingston raised over \$200 for the new St. Paul's Sunday School. Many thanks to all who "baked."



## Big Bend Library gets Mile of Pennies Grant

The Church Periodical Club, founded in 1888, is an independent, affiliated organization of the Episcopal Church dedicated to providing books, periodicals, software, and other materials to those in need worldwide. Grants are made based on the number of pennies needed to cover a distance of one mile when laid side by side. Each grant amounts to \$837.75.



The Big Bend Library has received a Mile of Pennies grant to purchase books for use by the children at the Terlingua School and the Big Bend High School.

## Otra Vez Needs Housewares

The Big Bend Mission Otra Vez Thrift Shop needs donations of cookware, utensils, china, small appliances, linens, and other household items. Items can be left in the library at St. Paul's, in the parish hall at St. James', or contact Elaine for other arrangements.

## Celebration of Kelshaw Ministry

Several people from the Big Bend Mission attended the celebration of ministry for retiring Bishop Kelshaw and his wife Hazel on July 23, 2005 at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso. The Vicar was one of several people invited to speak about memorable times with the Bishop.



## Praying the Hours

Many people in the Big Bend Mission have started praying daily using an abbreviated form of the traditional Liturgy of the Hours prayed in many monasteries. This discipline is composed of five short devotions, Vigils at 6:30am, Lauds at 8:00am,



Noon prayers, Vespers at 5:00pm, and Compline at 9-10:00pm. Times are approximate and may be adjusted to suit your daily schedule. Everyone in the Big Bend Mission is invited to "pray the hours" by making a commitment to pray at three or more of the recommended times. Cards with suggested prayers have been distributed in all the Big Bend Mission churches. Additional cards are available.

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

**Answer:** 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.

**This Month's Question:** What is Prayer?

## First Call!!

The Big Bend Mission will hold a service of Lessons and Carols early in Advent at St. James' Church. If you would like to sing in the choir for this beautiful service, please let Bill Smith or Elaine Ponton know. We need and welcome your voice.



## Charles Blizzard is a Candidate for Holy Orders



The Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Rio Grande has accepted Charles Blizzard as a Candidate for Holy Orders. Charles is a member of St. James' Church and is attending Trinity Seminary in Pennsylvania. His acceptance as a candidate is the next step in the lengthy process towards his ordination to the priesthood.

## New Mission Brochure

Look for it in a church near you. The Big Bend Mission has a new brochure which explains who we are and what we do. It is directed particularly at newcomers. However, everyone is encouraged to pick up a copy.



## Youth Club Starts New Year with Enthusiasm



The Big Bend Youth Club opened for the new school year on Tuesday, August 25th. Executive Director, Beth Garcia writes: "I have given and received so many hugs that I feel completely loved and all is right with the world. The A/C has been repaired, thankfully it was still under warranty and did not break because of anything we did wrong. I just want to share with all of you my view of things. The youth we serve are excited and happy. Lorn Willingham is here as flag football coach and is talking to that group right now. Others are playing pool. Some are drawing. Evidence of snack is everywhere--we got a great surprise--a chocolate cake and homemade cookies were donated to the club from St. Paul's church in Marfa (thank you to whoever left it at my house yesterday!)"

## Contemplative Prayer at St. Paul's

The new Centering Prayer group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at St Paul's. This is a time of silent prayer with members arriving and leaving in silence. Entering through the sanctuary door, we leave our shoes there and gather in a circle for two twenty minute periods of seated prayer with a brief meditative walk in between. Each prayer time begins with a reading from the psalms.

Current participants have all viewed and discussed the Introduction to Centering Prayer series by Thomas Keating prior to beginning the group. Keating is the retired abbot of St. Benedict's monastery in Snowmass, Colorado and founder of the Contemplative Outreach program. Anyone that would like to view the tapes may contact Pat McMurray at 432-426-3196.

## State Legislature Honors Maxine Haislip

State Representative Pete Gallego introduced a resolution in the Texas state legislature honoring Maxine Haislip. Before she died earlier this year, Maxine was the driving force behind the Otra Vez Thrift Shop and many other Brewster County projects. The resolution reads in part:

*"Resolved, that the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas Legislature hereby honor the life of Maxine Haislip and extend deepest sympathy to her husband, Cliff, and to all those who mourn the loss of this beloved woman."*

The full text of the resolution is available. Contact Seth.



Getting there is sometimes easier when resources are shared. (photo - Harper Collection)

## Trip to Mt. Calvary Monastery in Santa Barbara

A group from St. Paul's traveled by train to Santa Barbara, California at the end of June for a week long retreat at Mt. Calvary Monastery. The travelers experienced monastery life first hand including the daily praying of Liturgy of the Hours. Mt. Calvary is associated with the Episcopal Church and the Order of the Holy Cross. Libi Rhodes and Aurie West have made the commitment to be "associates" of the monastery and others in the Big Bend Mission are considering this step. Side trips were made to Solvang and the sights of Santa Barbara.



### *The Circuit Rider*

The Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
[www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org](http://www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org)  
HC 65, Box 272  
Alpine, TX 79830

Telephone  
888/BIG-BEND  
(432/371-2255)  
[judith@brooksdata.net](mailto:judith@brooksdata.net)  
[eponton@brooksdata.net](mailto:eponton@brooksdata.net)  
[seth@equimax.com](mailto:seth@equimax.com)



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