



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – February 2003

Meet Billy and Ellie Webb

Billy and Ellie Webb live in Lajitas and are members of Sts. Mary and Joseph's congregation. The Sts. Mary and Joseph's Congregation meets in the chapel at Lajitas which was built in the early 1900's as part of the Lajitas cavalry post. The chapel in Lajitas would not be what it is today were it not for Ellie. Years ago Ellie started the Lajitas Chapel Fund with proceeds from collecting and recycling aluminum cans. Over the years, the Lajitas Chapel Fund has paid for church furnishings and renovations. Lajitas corporation (owner of the chapel building) and numerous other individuals have participated in the renovation efforts.



Ellie has also coordinated activities at the Mission Resale Shop in Lajitas which has provided additional income for the Chapel Fund. The Mission Resale Shop is being resurrected as the Big Bend Mission Thrift Shop. (See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Ellie and Billy are both originally from Luling, Texas. They were first associated with the Lajitas

congregation in 1985. Ellie is the manager of the Lajitas Mercantile on the boardwalk in Lajitas. She has been the mainstay of the altar guild at Sts. Mary and Joseph's for many years. Billy has been a rancher and real estate sales person. The Webbs have two children, Nora and Billy, Jr. Jim, a third child, passed away a few years ago. They have two grandchildren.

Ellie describes herself as a rock hound and geology enthusiast. She says that the Church is very important to her and she enjoys going to church and being a part of church activities.



Hard Questions

Do you remember the classic cartoon of the man in rags carrying a sign that says "Repent! The End is Near!?" Repentance brings to mind images of crawling on our knees before God and begging Him to forgive us. The Greek word "metanoia," translated "repentance," literally means to "turn around." Repentance in simple terms means to open yourself to seeing things in new ways. Sometimes when we look at ourselves in new ways we **do** beg God for forgiveness, but repentance can show us much more than our own shortcomings. Sometimes repentance leads to seeing the glory and love of God in new ways. - Seth



Please, remember our annual retreat will be held at Terlingua Ranch Lodge beginning with supper on February 28th and going through lunch on Sunday March 2nd. Call the Lodge at 371-2416 to make your room reservation. Tell them you are with the Big Bend Mission. Rooms are \$36 per night plus tax. Pets are allowed and RV spaces are available. (Those who live in the Terlingua area may come from home for the sessions.) The cost for attending the retreat will be the cost of your room plus the cost of meals. If the cost of attending is a problem for anyone, please let the Vicar know. Scholarships are available.

Elaine Ponton to be Ordained Deacon



Elaine Ponton will be ordained Deacon on Saturday, February 22nd at St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa, Albuquerque. The ordination will be at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. We are grateful to Bishop Keshaw, the Standing Committee, and the Commission on Ministry for allowing Elaine to be ordained earlier than originally scheduled, due to the needs of the Big Bend Mission.

Columbarium Wall Complete at St. Paul's

The columbarium project at St. Paul's in Marfa is finished. Anyone interested in



reserving a niche for ashes should contact the vicar.

Vicar Recognized by Big Bend Education Corp.

The Big Bend Library at the Terlingua School officially opened to the general public on January 23, 2003. An open house was held from 3 to 6 in the afternoon and included a short ceremony thanking The Rev. Judith Burgess for over 7 years service as president of the Big



Bend Education Corporation. The B.B.E.C. was responsible for raising the majority of funding for the Big Bend High School and Big Bend Library buildings. Former Board Member Ron Sanders was also recognized for his time in service.

The B.B.E.C. is entering phase three of the building project with Terlingua resident Jenny Turner as president. Phase three involves the building of a combination gym, auditorium, and cafeteria.

Two priests were fishing on the side of the road and decided they needed to make a road sign to help motorists. They came up with a sign which read: "The end is near; turn yourself around now before it's too late!" When the priests started showing their sign to passing cars, one motorist didn't appreciate it and yelled at them, "Leave us alone, you crazy religious nuts!" Then they heard a big splash. One priest looked at the other and said, "You think maybe we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out!'?"

From *The Joyful Noisletter* and Columnist Smiley Anders

Thanks to Millers, Transportation Ministry is Under Way

Thanks to the generosity of Bob and Mary Miller of Marfa and Big Spring, the Big Bend Mission Transportation Ministry is off to a great start. In this rural area where distances are large and transportation can be a problem for lots of people, the goal of the Transportation Ministry is to provide reliable transportation to local people who are unable to obtain a car. To get things rolling, Bob and Mary Miller have donated their Pontiac Sunbird. At press time, the car was in the hands of Alpine mechanic Frank Covington. Frank is checking the car over for potential problems and will fix anything needing immediate repair. A recipient for the car has already been located, so we're on the lookout for another vehicle that might need a new home.



Help Needed Soon!

The new building for the Big Bend Mission Thrift Shop has arrived. In the next few weeks, work days will be scheduled to finish the interior of the building and to transport clothing and other items from the Mission Resale Shop in Lajitas.



Many hands are needed to make the work light for all.

Meet the St. James' Gospel Crew

Christmas eve service at St. James' this year



was graced by Fred Koepp, Beth Koepp, and K.C. Avery. Serving as crucifer and torch bearers, the three served with distinction.

Last Month's Question: What is a "letter of transfer"?

Answer: Our baptism seals us as God's own forever and makes us a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Most of us also associate ourselves with a Christian denomination and local congregation. Episcopalians moving from one congregation to another generally request a "letter of transfer" from their old congregation. This correspondence takes place between the clergy of the two congregations.

This Month's Question: What are the "sacraments"?



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The Great Team Penning Caper

On Saturday, January 18th, Seth, Judy, and Elaine hauled their horses to Lajitas to participate in a team penning competition put on by the Lajitas Equestrian Center. The director of the Equestrian Center was hired through Seth's business, which helps horse industry professionals nationwide. We had a good time despite one horse that was afraid of the cattle and three people who had never done anything like team penning before. Despite being outclassed by professional cowboys from area ranches, we managed to get one cow in the pen.



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