



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – July and August 2003

Thanks to Haislips for Thrift Shop Success

The Big Bend Mission "Otra Vez" Thrift Shop continues to exceed all expectations



thanks to the hard work and dedication of Cliff and Maxine Haislip. Cliff was born in Grosse Ile, Michigan, an island in the Detroit river, but spent his childhood in Missouri and Oklahoma. He has a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Administration and a minor in History from Bob Jones University. Cliff was Credit Manager for four companies and retired from Thompson Hayward Chemical in 1989. He came to the Big Bend in 1990 to volunteer in the Big Bend National Park. As part of his volunteer work, he visited the facilities in Terlingua and Study Butte to see what they were like. When he checked out the Big Bend Motor Inn, he found Maxine working at the front desk. The rest is history, as they say. Cliff and Maxine were married in 1991. Maxine was born in Harlingen, TX, but moved to Austin at the age of 9. She worked in banking in

Austin for 14 years. Maxine first came to the Big Bend in 1975 and moved here in 1986. She has 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren. In addition to running the Big Bend Mission Otra Vez Thrift Store, Maxine is on the boards of Primary Care Services and the South Brewster County Community Development Corporation (the youth center). She enjoys hiking and bicycling. Cliff has 5 children and 8 grandchildren. He has been a deacon and treasurer in a non-denominational church and a reserve police officer. He is now the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2 of Brewster County and serves on the board of the Terlingua Volunteer Fire Department. Despite a heart transplant in 1996, Cliff enjoys back-country exploring and does a lot of the cooking at home. Many thanks to Cliff and Maxine. The thrift store and the community would not be what they are without you.

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Otra Vez Thrift Shop Already Helping Out

Income from the Big Bend Mission Otra Vez Thrift Shop is already being distributed to help with community needs. Sev-

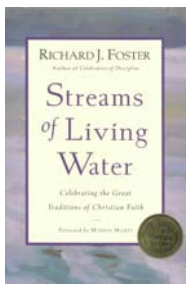


eral students at the Big Bend High School have received financial assistance for attending basketball camp at Texas A & M this summer. Funds have also been pro-

Change in Vicar's Vacation Dates

The new dates are June 23rd through July 17th and July 23rd through July 31st. This change allows Seth and Judy to visit family in New Hampshire.

St. James' Group Starts New Book



On July 1st, the Prayer Fellowship at St. James' will start reading and studying *Streams of Living Water* by Richard J. Foster. In this book, Foster examines the "streams of living water"--the six dimensions of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. The author examines the unique contributions of each of these traditions and offers as examples the inspiring stories of faithful people whose lives defined each of these "streams." Foster is also the author of *Celebration of Discipline*. The Prayer Fellowship meets in the parish hall at St. James' on Tuesdays at 2pm for prayer and at about 2:45 for discussion on the book. Everyone is welcome to attend.



vided for startup assistance to the south Brewster County youth activities center.

Please continue providing donations. Cooking and eating utensils, appliances, and other housewares are in high demand. Clothing, furniture, and any other items are also welcome. Donations may be left at the churches, or contact Maxine Haislip for additional help—432/371-2412.

Circuit Rider Takes a Break in August

Summer is a quieter time in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission. This issue of the *Circuit Rider* covers July and August. The next issue will be the September issue.

Commission on Ministry Interviews Charles Blizzard

In early June, the diocesan Commission on Ministry interviewed St. James's parish-



ioner Charles Blizzard for acceptance as a postulant for holy orders. Judy Burgess and Judy & Jack Probst drove to Albuquerque to be present at the interview. The interview went well, and afterwards Charles seemed to think the Holy Spirit was present as well.

Charles has been accepted at Trinity Seminary and will start classes in the fall. This summer he is working as a counselor at Camp Stoney outside of Santa Fe, NM.

Back Issues of The Circuit Rider at Church Web Site

If you wish you could re-read an article that appeared in a previous issue of *The Circuit Rider*, now you can. Back issues



of *The Circuit Rider* are posted at the Big Bend Mission web site. From the home page, click on the link that says **Big Bend Mission Newsletters**. The newsletters are provided in Adobe Acrobat format and can be viewed automatically on most computers. The new web site address for the Big Bend Mission is:

www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

Deanna Bowling Walks El Camino de Santiago

In May, St. James' organist Deanna Bowling walked 250 miles as a pilgrim on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Santiago de Compostela, a Cathedral in northern Spain, has been famous since the Middle Ages as a destination for millions of pilgrims walking to the traditional grave of St. James. Deanna shares her experience by telling us what a day was like for her on her pilgrimage.

It is not yet light. If I could see my watch I would know that it is about 6:00 AM. I have been awakened by the soft rustling of plastic and nylon as my fellow pilgrims begin to load their backpacks for another day on the Camino. There is never a need for an alarm clock, not after your mind learns this familiar sound. I get up as quietly as I can. I have been sleeping in a bunk bed, perhaps on the floor if the bunks were full or if there are only mattresses on the floor. There are men and women sharing the same room, often next to each other. I make an effort not to awaken those who would rather sleep a little longer. I roll up my sleeping bag (which serves as a blanket on the bed) and check around for my belongings. I make a hasty trip to the bathroom to wash my face and brush my teeth. Then I am out into the early dawn. It will be around 6:30 now. It is still dark indoors but the sky is lightening as the sun approaches. The air is so fresh and fragrant, so full of the damp smells of early morning. There will be no cafes open for breakfast. But I have learned to buy bread, cheese, and fruit the night before. And I am content with instant coffee, cold, to slake my need for caffeine. I begin to walk alone. I have checked the path the night before so that I will know where it leaves town. At least I will not miss the very beginning of the trail!



Taking a break along the road

(Continued on back of July Calendar)

Last Month's Question: What is Prayer?

Answer: Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.

This Month's Question: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Elaine Ponton Reads Gospel at Class Ordination

Elaine Ponton read the Gospel lesson at the June ordination of 11 deacons and 2 priests at St. Clement's in El Paso on June 20th. Elaine was originally scheduled to be ordained at this service along with other Diocesan School for Ministry classmates, but due to needs here in the mission, she was ordained last February.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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(Deanna Bowling continued from page two) I do not know what lies ahead. I may find myself in another small town very soon. I may approach an open field, a wheat field or a pasture full of cattle. I may find myself in the woods or beside a small river, beautiful in the morning with the mists rising. I may be on level ground or I may be going up and down hills on slippery rocks. It may be wet or dry. I may come to a large town with its bustle and its history on display in its buildings. Each morning is different. But each morning is magic, with the freshness of a new day and a new adventure ahead.

I will stop for breakfast soon after dawn. I may walk alone throughout the day or I may meet up with another pilgrim. Some faces, most after a few days, will be familiar. Some will be new. We will attempt to communicate in Spanish, French, or English most likely. We may walk together and discuss our journey, our feelings and intentions, our wishes and hopes with a strange openness, born of a shared journey, a time when we are all strangers facing an unknown, beautiful world. We may choose to walk together all day or we may choose to separate after a while. It is acceptable to excuse yourself from company along the Camino; none are offended.



I love to walk alone, to think, to sharpen my awareness of the sights, sounds, smells, colors around me. I love to sing, to think, to let my mind wander over all that I seem to be learning about the world and about myself. Many mornings I am greeted by birds with songs I have never heard before. The cuckoo expresses his opinion. The flowers are so lovely that I must restrain myself from photographing all of them! The smells, the fields, farms, animal smells,

the smell of fresh hay, fill me with joy. I hear the wind in the trees, see the wheat waving like water as it bends in the breeze, or I hear the flow of a brook nearby, the lowing of cattle, traffic in the distance, all the sounds of earth. When I come near a highway I wonder about the people in the cars, whether they are tourists or perhaps local people going about their daily jobs.

After 9:00 or 10:00 AM I may pass a cafe and join others there for coffee and, perhaps, a "tortilla patata" or some such treat. I have learned that the body needs to be fed and cared for if it is to continue this journey. And so the day will continue on...from the cool, fresh morning to the gradually increasing heat of midday, on to siesta time for the people of this land. I may stop for siesta myself. A midday nap is very helpful.

By the time I reach the next Albergue (*inn or hostel*), I will have walked between 22 and 36 kilometers. Others do more, some do less. We each walk at our own pace and we each experience the Camino in a different way. We each came with different motives. We will each find that the Camino will give to us and take from us things which we never expected. None of us will ever forget this experience, nor will we forget those with whom we walked the Way of St. James. It is burned into our hearts.

At about 3:00 PM I will reach the next Albergue and hope there is room for me! The first task is to go to the shower...hot or cold, shared with those of both sexes or not, with a curtain or not...there is no rule here either. I change into my other set of clothes, wash the ones I have worn today, and look for a place to hang them in hopes that they will dry before dark. I am tired, so I nap for an hour or so. Then I may join other pilgrims. We set out looking for a cafe for dinner, or at least a small shop where we can obtain simple food to prepare for ourselves. Again, we share our thoughts, hopes, dreams, discuss what we have seen and enjoyed (or not!) on the Camino. We discuss our feet, share remedies for blisters or for aches and pains. We encourage those who are having a hard time and we laugh with those who had an "up" day. We work to understand each other through the barriers of language. We go back, check our clothes and bring them in when they are dry or almost dry. Some will talk quietly. I like to read a bit, as do many others. We share any knowledge we may have of the coming day's trek. We prepare our supplies (food) for the next day and, one by one, we drift off to sleep. In the night some are disturbed by the snores of others. This does not bother me. The random, uncoordinated noise of other pilgrims reminds me of the sound of the sea and I find it to be hypnotic, sometimes amusing. Sometimes one of us will awaken, talking, from a disturbing dream. The sounds of night are part of the Camino... up to the early morning rustling of plastic and nylon as we begin another day.