



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – June 2003

Ted and Frances Harper Inducted into the Big Bend Cowboy Hall of Fame

Ted and Frances Harper, long-time members of St. Paul's Marfa and ranchers in the community for many years, were inducted into the Big Bend Cowboy Hall of Fame on Saturday May 24th at the county roping arena. The ceremony was part of the fourth annual Cowboy Rendezvous which included a two-day team roping contest, baseball games, and a Saturday night dance. Hall of Famers are people who have benefited the Big Bend by their involvement in the area's way of life, the livestock industry, business and growth, education or health. The Harper's contribution to cattle and horse ranching and to betterment of life in the Big Bend have earned them a spot in the Hall of Fame.



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Meet John and Ann VanDreumel

The VanDreumel's have attended St. James' since they moved to Alpine in 1986. John was born in the Netherlands



and first came to the United States at the age of 10. Ann was born in Media, Pennsylvania. They met at a Y.M.C.A. camp in Wilmington, Delaware. John is retired from I.B.M. where he did troubleshooting and administrative work. His job involved travel to South America, Japan, Australia, and elsewhere in the Far East. Although Ann has been a homemaker and mother most of her life, she also worked as a teacher's aide and drove a school bus for awhile. John was district governor of the Lions Club in '96-'97 and is a Mason. Both were lay speakers in the Methodist Church before becoming Episcopalians. Both have been lay readers at St. James'. Ann is a member of the Altar Guild and the Daughters of the King. John served as church treasurer. The VanDreumels have 3 children (in New York, Connecticut, and Washington State), 3 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, particularly when visiting family and attending activities of their camping club.

Highlights Around the Mission

- **Jack and Judy Probst** (St. James') will be the **graduation speakers** at this year's ceremony for **Big Bend High School**. Graduation will be held at the Lajitas Pavilion on Friday evening, May 30th.
- The weekly **class about the Bible and the Prayer Book** will continue through June 10th on Tuesday evenings at St. Paul's starting at 7:00pm. No advance reading or previous attendance is required.
- **Holy Week Offering** designated for the **Diocese of Jerusalem** totaled \$613.00.
- The **Vicar will be on vacation** from June 23rd through July 17th.

E.S.L. Celebration Dinner

On Thursday evening May 22, St. Paul's congregation hosted the English as a Second Language class for dinner. Students and teachers were each given a certificate of excellence and encouraged to keep up the good work.



The Class



Instructors Carol Livingston, Libi Rhodes, and Al Hoyle with a student

St. Augustine, a 4th century bishop in North Africa, put it this way in an Easter sermon: "You are the body of Christ. In you and through you the work of the incarnation must go forward. You are to be taken; you are to be blessed, broken, and distributed; that you may be the means of grace and the vehicles of the eternal charity."

(courtesy of Bonnie McNamara, St. James')

Mary Miller Confirmed at St. Mary's in Big Spring

Bob and Mary Miller live and work in Big Spring, TX (45 minutes east of Midland), but they also have a home two doors down from St. Paul's in Marfa. When in Big Spring, the Millers attend St. Mary's

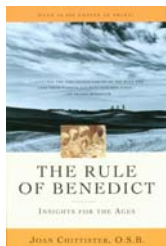


Church there. When they are in Marfa, they join the congregation at St. Paul's. Mary credits her experience at St. Paul's with moving her along the road toward confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Her opportunity came a couple of weeks ago when Bishop Wallace Ohl visited St. Mary's. Several people from the Big Bend Mission attended the service of confirmation, including our Vicar who served as bishop's chaplain to Bishop Ohl. Bob Miller had already been confirmed in the church, but he reaffirmed his faith at the same service.

What is Confirmation?

In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age [and those baptized as adults] are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop. (Book of Common Prayer, page 412)

Marfa Study Group Starts New Book



The St. Paul's study group has started reading *The Rule of Benedict, Insights for the Ages* by Joan Chittister. Summer meeting time is Thursdays at noon. Bring a dish, and join them for lunch.

What's a "Collect" Anyway?

When we arrive at the point in the Sunday service described as the "collect," it is not time to take up a collection. A "collect" is a special kind of prayer. The word is pronounced "ka lekt" (almost like "colic"). In early usage, collects were prayers prayed as the faithful gathered or "collected" for worship. In modern usage, *Liturgy for Living* says collects are simply "prayers with certain formal characteristics. They are one sentence in length, with three major parts: (1) an *address* to God (e.g., 'whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world'); (2) a *petition* ('Grant that your people, illuminated by your Word and Sacraments, my shine with the radiance of Christ's glory'); the petition is often but not always followed by a result clause ('that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth'); (3) a *mediation* ('through Jesus Christ our Lord') usually coupled with a *doxology* ('who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever'). Like all prayers it ends with *Amen*." (source: *Liturgy for Living*, Charles P. Price & Louis Weil, Morehouse Publishing, 2000)

Behind the Scenes



Last Month's Question: What is the "Ministry of Lay Persons"?

Answer: The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

This Month's Question: What is Prayer?



Hard Questions

So often it seems as if we would prefer to talk about, analyze, and complicate our faith instead of "just doing it!" The following is an excerpt from an "On a Journey" meditation: "Jesus couldn't have been more basic in his approach: one commandment ('Love one another'), one circle of friendship (one flock, one shepherd), one basic activity (breaking bread), one mission (tell others). Could it be that our over-engineering is a hiding place, not a launching pad? Rather than do the basics of what Jesus commanded, we hide in procedures, traditions, abstract theologies, and fussy concerns like attire, denomination, and categories of membership. The answer is to try. Give it our best shot, and when we come up short, ask for help." ("On a Journey" meditations are e-mailed six days a week to interested readers. To add your name to the list, send your e-mail address to oaj2000@earthlink.net.)

Youth Activities Center Raises Funds and Signs Lease



Beth Garcia, Judy Probst, and Elaine Ponton met this month with Irene Newlon of El Paso. Ms. Newlon has been instrumental in providing startup funding for boys and girls clubs in Van Horn and Presidio. Help with some initial funding was obtained for the new south Brewster county youth activities center, along with a promise to work toward more funding as the center gets under way. Additional funds have been provided by an anonymous donor and by the Big Bend Episcopal Mission. The lease for the building has been signed. The building is being prepared for limited use on weekends to get the project up and running.



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Events at the Mandala Center

Dreams of the Earth Retreat/Renewal. Friday, June 6 - Sunday, June 8. The importance of dreams is evident in the sacred scriptures of many religions and civilizations and in the stories and myths of indigenous peoples the world over. In this retreat, participants will explore their own dreams through the use of journaling, art materials, music, ritual, and a communal dream-tending process. Dream tender is Patricia Sablatura, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist who has designed and led dream retreats since 1993. Cecily Schroepfer comes with a background in music, toning, and ortho-bionomy, a healing body work. Both facilitators are members of the Rochester Franciscan community.

Women, Money and Spiritual Vision: A Retreat for Women of Faith. Friday, June 20 - Sunday, June 22. Take a personal money journey with Rosemary Williams, Director of Women's Perspective, financial planner, and former banker. Rosemary combines her faith and financial know-how to help women understand and strengthen their connection between spirituality and money. In this retreat, you will explore some of the confusing messages you have received about money and your feelings about such issues as abundance and scarcity, earning and spending, investing and giving. You'll compare these messages and feelings with your spiritual beliefs and map out a plan to align your actions with your values. Rosemary is author of *A Women's Book of Money and Spiritual Vision: Putting Your Financial Values into Spiritual Perspective*, and she has a regular column in *Faith at Work* on women, money, and work.

Fee for each of these weekend retreats is \$250. The Mandala Center is an ecumenical retreat center located 35 miles east of Raton in northeastern New Mexico.

For more information or to register, call 505-278-3002 or e-mail
pbrown@emandalacenter.org.

P.O. Box 158, Des Moines, New Mexico 88418 • 505-278-3002 • fax 505-278-3004

Message from the Otra Vez Thrift Shop

*Help!
Customers are
pouring in. Send
more stuff!*



Never let it be said, "There are no turkeys in Marfa."



This bird visited several gardens in town and is seen here on the front porch of a house just down from the church.



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