



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – March 2004

Reagan and Marcy Reed Complete Marathon



Many of us struggle with getting enough exercise to maintain good health. The idea of running a marathon seems beyond the realm of reality for most. Not so for Reagan and Marcy Reed, who recently completed the Motorola Marathon in Austin. With shorter races, we tend to ask “who won?” The question most frequently asked about a



marathon is, “Did you make it all the way?” Yes, after months of training for the competition, both Marcy and Reagan completed the 26-mile race within 4-5 hours. Congratulations Reagan and Marcy! (Photos courtesy of Action Sports International)

Donate \$25 and Win 5 Acres

5 acres of land just off the entrance road to Terlingua Ranch has been donated to the Big Bend Youth Club. The Youth Club is selling 200 raffle tickets at \$25 each, and the winner will receive the deed to the land. For information or to buy tickets, contact Beth Garcia at 432/371-2304 or garciabeth2003@yahoo.com.

Virginia Knab

Virginia Knab was raised in South Bend, Indiana, home of the “Fighting Irish” of Notre Dame. Starting in 1972, she lived in East Texas and the Houston area before relocating to the Big Bend in August 2000.



Virginia has been a high school Chemistry teacher, but she is now a pediatric physical therapist. She did her “PT” training at Texas Woman’s University, Houston.

Virginia was received into the Episcopal Church sixteen years ago and has been a licensed lay reader and lay eucharistic minister to the ill and infirm. She is a member of the Altar Guild at St. James’.

Virginia loves to spend time with her daughter, who is an architecture student at the University of Texas, Arlington. Virginia loves to research and “bargain hunt” for antiques. She is grateful for “a place to worship with people whom I can break bread and converse with on the other days of the week and call on if I need help.”

Expect Your Diocesan Search Committee Survey



The Diocesan Search Committee is charged with recommending candidates for the election of a bishop coadjutor in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. In an effort to get input from as many people as possible, the committee will send a survey to every household in the Diocese. The survey will ask for your input on some key questions. **Completed surveys must be returned no later than March 15, 2004.** If you don’t receive a survey during the first week of March, contact our search committee representative, Jack Probst, at 432/837-7153.

Lenten Studies on the Apocrypha This Year

This year’s Lenten series at St. James’, Alpine will begin Tuesday, March 2nd at 6pm with a light potluck supper and be followed by a discussion ending no later than 8pm. The topic for this year is the Apocrypha, which are writings coming out of the approximately 400 years between the writings of the Old and New Testaments. No advance reading is required, and everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a Bible that includes the Apocrypha, if you have one. A supper and study will be held each Tuesday during Lent at 6pm, except not on March 16th and 30th.



St. Paul’s Nears Challenge Grant Goal

The congregation at St. Paul’s has been challenged to match a generous \$10,000 donation from Bob & Mary Miller for much-needed repairs to the building and for enhancements to the organ. At press time, most of the additional \$10,000 has been received, but there is still time to contribute.



No... Al and Thelma Have Not Moved to Boston

Since December, Al and Thelma Hoyle have been back and forth to Boston for Thelma's eye treatments. Thelma's recov-



ery has been slower than she would have liked. Al's absence has made it impossible for him to finish up some of his treasurer duties for 2003, and your patience in these matters is appreciated. At present, Al and Thelma are due back by the end of February. Please keep them in your prayers.

Seder Supper Planned

Plans are being made for what has become the Annual Seder Supper at St. Paul's. In the yearly celebration of Passover, Jews the world over remember how God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. This celebration of the journey from slavery into freedom features a festive meal known as the Seder. During the meal, thanksgivings are offered, the Exodus story is retold, and special foods are served. This year, the supper will be held on April 8th following the Maundy Thursday service. Sign up to help with the supper on the sheet at St. Paul's, or call Greta Murray at 432/729-4699.



Passion and Resurrection



Recently the folks at the "Joyful Noiseletter" sent Mel Gibson a framed print of "The Risen Christ by the Sea," along with a proposal that he follow up his movie, "The Passion of The Christ," with a sequel titled "The Resurrection of Christ."

Youth Club Applies for U.T.O. Grant

The Big Bend Youth Club has applied for a grant from the United Thank Offering (U.T.O.). The U.T.O. is an offering collected in most Episcopal churches twice a year.



The proceeds are pooled nationally and provide grants to various ministries around the world. One U.T.O. grant provided part of the money needed to build the Big Bend Library. The Big Bend Youth Club will secure much-needed operating money if the U.T.O. funds their request. Traditionally, anyone making a donation to the U.T.O. does so by putting a coin in one of their "little blue boxes" every time they are grateful for something in their lives. The accumulated coins are collected by the local church twice a year. The next U.T.O. "ingathering" for the Big Bend Mission will be the "Spring" ingathering in May. Please be generous. If you need a blue box, contact the vicar.



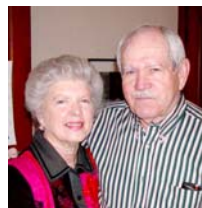
Last Month's Question: What is the ministry of a bishop?

Answer: The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

This Month's Question: Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

Don't forget to check out the Big Bend Mission Web Site at
www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

Welcome Back Libi



No one is happier to see Libi Rhodes back from her convalescence in Austin than her husband Bill Brown. Welcome back, Libi!!

Charles Blizzard Breaks Nose



Our seminarian from St. James', Charles Blizzard, who is attending Trinity Seminary near Pittsburg, broke his nose recently in a flag football game against Virginia Seminary. In spite of the injury, his studies are going well. While he is home for the summer in San Antonio, he hopes to visit with us.

The Otra Vez Thrift Shop needs more donations of housewares, clothing, and other items!



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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Plans for an Adult Center at Camp Stoney



On January 27, 2004 there was an historic meeting at Camp Stoney. The Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, the Trustees of the Property, and the Camp Stoney Board met together to consider the future ministry at the camp and, specifically, the plans for an adult retreat center.

For several years, the Camp Stoney Board of Directors has been moving ahead with plans to build an adult-friendly conference center at our diocesan camp. After careful consideration via a feasibility study and marketing study, plans have been drawn up which include 24 motel-like guest rooms, a dining space for over 100 guests, an indoor chapel which will seat 90, and several small meeting rooms. Each guest room will be individually heated and air conditioned and will have its own bathroom.

Rev. Bill Irons, Stoney's Executive Director, presented a comprehensive history of the camp and an outline of the proposed buildings and programs. The gathered committees engaged in some lively conversation, and enthusiasm grew for the project. Although there were some concerns expressed about distances in our diocese and the timing of such expansion, the overarching consensus is that this could be a great time to expand the ministry at Stoney. This could be a "kairos" moment — a moment in God's time, one that could pull us together as a diocese around our spiritual center, the camp!

A motion was drafted, passed as a joint resolution, and then unanimously adopted by each of the governing bodies gathered. It reads:

Be it hereby resolved that the Diocesan Council and Standing Committee direct the Camps and Conference Center Board to prepare a financial feasibility plan for the construction and operation of the Adult Conference Center at Camp Stoney. Be it further resolved that when the Financial Feasibility Plan is accepted by the Standing Committee, the construction of the Adult Conference Center will continue as presented by the Camp Stoney Board and approved by the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council.



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