



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – May 2003

Otra Vez Thrift Shop Hits the Ground Running!

Even though the electricity was not hooked up yet, the Big Bend Mission Otra Vez Thrift Shop opened during the last week of March. From the first day, sales have exceeded our expectations. Thanks to the creative talents of Maxine Haislip and others, the shop looks very much like a “real” store.



Positive comments have been heard around the community. Customers arrive out of nowhere the minute the door opens. The shop is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 3-5pm and on Saturdays 10am-2pm



until summer. Summer hours will be just 10am-2pm on Saturdays. Proceeds of sales benefit the Big Bend Mission budget and emergency needs in the community. Inventory is going fast, so clean out those closets and attics. Household items, furniture, appliances, and most anything will be accepted in addition to good used clothing. Donations may be left at any of the Big Bend Mission Churches. Please contact Judy or Elaine to coordinate the donation of large items. Plan on visiting the shop the next time you drive south, and bring your items for donation with you!

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- What Happened to the *Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief?*
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Charles Blizzard Aspirant for Holy Orders

Charles Blizzard, member of St. James', Alpine and student at Sul Ross University, has been accepted as an “aspirant” for holy orders by the diocesan Commission on Ministry. As an aspirant, Charles will be attending seminary in the fall and eventually will be ordained.

Charles is originally from San Antonio, TX and started attending St. James' as a freshman at Sul Ross. He is a Lay Reader and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Charles will be working at

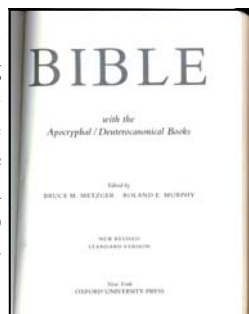
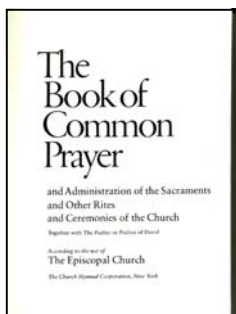


Camp Stoney as a counselor this summer and says he is open to whatever else God calls him to do. (Camp Stoney is the camp and retreat center for the Diocese of the Rio Grande, and it's located 13 miles south of Santa Fe, NM.)

Charles likes sports, reading, learning, laughing, loving, and just being a part of God's work. Have you met him yet? He is 6'2", has dark hair and dark eyes, is funny, and says he likes long sunset walks on Alpine's many sandy beaches.

Study about the Prayer Book and the Bible

On Tuesday May 13th, we will begin a study of the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible. We will meet at 7:00pm at St. Paul's Parish Hall. The study group will meet each Tuesday evening through June 10th. It is open to anyone who would like to know more about the Prayer Book, Bible, or the Episcopal church. If you are interested in being confirmed when the Bishop visits in November, please plan to attend the study. If you have questions, please ask the Vicar.



“That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light, when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad Apostles saw their Lord... Come, risen Christ, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide; your own redeemed forever shield from every weapon death can wield.”

From #193 in the Episcopal Hymnal, a Fifth Century Catholic hymn -- reprinted from the Joyful Noiseletter

What Happened to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief?

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has had a long-standing reputation for being the Episcopal Fund that steps in to help when there is a crisis anywhere in the world. It has not gone away. The P.B.F.W.R. is now **Episcopal Relief and Development** (E.R.D.).



E.R.D. currently has funds for the Iraqi Conflict, AIDS Relief, Development and Rehabilitation, The Middle East Crisis, Disaster Relief (Earthquake, Flood, Hurricane, etc.), Africa Relief, El Salvador: National Recovery Program, Children, and Jerusalem 2000. To provide assistance in the Iraqi Conflict, they have teamed up with the Middle East Council of Churches to assist people affected by the war. So far, they have provided critical assistance, such as baby milk and blankets, to four relief centers in Iraq.

The Episcopal Relief and Development web site can be found at www.er-d.org. Donations can be made on-line.

Meet the English as a Second Language Class

Thanks to the dedication of Libi Rhodes and her assistants, the ESL classes in Marfa continue to improve the quality of



life for area residents who do not speak English as their native language. This picture of the class was taken when it met recently at St. Paul's.

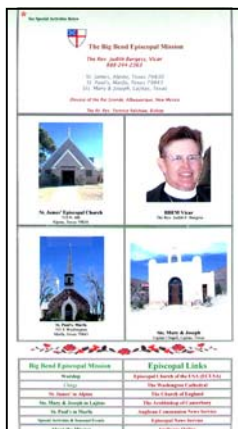
Seder Supper

Many Thanks to all who helped make the Seder Supper a success this year. It greatly enhanced Holy Week once again.

The Big Bend Mission has a Web Site

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Al Hoyle and Bonnie McNamara, the Big Bend Mission has a web site. Point your web browser to:

www.ecwh.org/sites/bigbendepiscopalmission.org



Al and Bonnie attended a two-hour training workshop in February, sponsored by eBigBend. Non-profits in the region were offered help by eBigBend so they could post information and pictures on the web. The eBigBend web site contains information about most of the towns in this region. When our vicar heard that our entire region would be represented there, she asked Al and Bonnie to put a web page on the portal. The eBigBend web site is located at <http://ebigbend.operasystems.com> and includes a link to our web site.

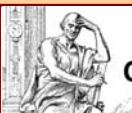
Bonnie is the webmaster for her husband's on-line newspaper. She got the Mission project started some time ago by creating a draft of a web page in Netscape Composer. The entire project from training session to finished web site, with a link from the eBigBend portal, took about three weeks.

The finished web site is hosted by Episcopal Church Web Hosting, a North Carolina non-profit. Al Hoyle has mastered the difficult process of modifying the site so that it can be kept up to date with Mission news and events. For more information on web page creation with Netscape Composer, call Bonnie McNamara at 837-5619.

Last Month's Question: Who are the ministers of the Church?

Answer: The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. That's right, everyone in the church is a minister.

This Month's Question: What is the ministry of lay persons?



Hard Questions

What should you do when you feel like God has abandoned you or you don't experience Him in your life? The presence of God does not depend on our feelings. He is there whether we feel like He is or not. When He seems absent, be patient and keep an eye out for Him. Sooner or later, something will happen to show you that He's been there all along.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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Youth Center Building Secured

The former clinic building in Study Butte has been made available for the South Brewster County youth activities center.



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Contact Judy, Elaine, or Seth.

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Harper Family Gathers at Carrizal Ranch for a Baptism

On Saturday April 19th, the Harper family from St. Paul's gathered at their Carrizal Ranch south of Marfa for the baptism of Shannon Weyerts. Shannon is the daughter of Amy and Robert Weyerts. Amy and Robert's other child Keith was there along with the Harper children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Amy and Robert are daughter and son-in-law of Tana and Johnny Surrat, and Amy is a granddaughter of Ted and Francis Harper.



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