



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – April/May 2007

Casa de la Rosa Open House

The Threshold held an open house on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the new retreat house, Casa de la Rosa. A few weeks of additional construction time are needed before guest accommodations will be finished.



The complex will remain a private residence, but, when complete, will be open for a limited number of overnight retreatants, and day guests. Costs of construction are being covered by private donors, but donations for furnishings are welcome.

During the open house, each new room had a poster on the wall showing the furnishings and their cost. During the day, sufficient

donations were received to furnish the new guest sleeping quarters. Contact Tom Graf, Aurie West, or Melissa Williams for information on remaining items needing donors.

The Threshold - A Place of Prayer - seeks to be a thin place in the world around us that



provides the opportunity to experience the sacred presence of Christ. Each person is welcomed as Christ and is invited to spiritual growth and pilgrimage through the common sharing of the Liturgy of the Hours, study, the breaking of bread, prayer and periods of silence and contemplation. *More photos on page two.*

Circuit Rider Combined Issue this Month

This issue of the *Circuit Rider* covers April and May. The next issue will be for June. The editor and Vicar will be on vacation during the last two weeks of April.

The *Circuit Rider* welcomes your articles, photos, and suggestions. Our contact information is shown on page two.

Schedule Change for Next Threshold Quiet Day

The next Threshold Quiet Day will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2007 at the First Christian Church in Marfa. Because April 7th is Holy Saturday, the quiet day will start at 10:30am and end at 4:30pm, so participants can go directly from the quiet day to the Easter Vigil at St. Paul's. As always, everyone is invited to come to the quiet day for as little or as much time as they like.



Do Something Different - Attend a Deanery Meeting

The Spring Gathering of the Southeast Deanery will be on April 20th and 21st in Ruidoso, New Mexico.



The Big Bend Mission is a member of the Southeast Deanery and our delegates attend this twice a year meeting. This time, the meeting is for educational purposes, and anyone is welcome to attend.

What is a "deanery" anyway? Episcopal Dioceses are divided into geographical units made up of groups of churches. These divisions are commonly called a "deanery." Deaneries have a budget and engage in ministry. The Southeast Deanery gives financial assistance to the Big Bend Mission.

The host parish this year is the Church of the Holy Mount in Ruidoso, and that will be where the meetings will be held. Arrangements have been made to hold a block of 15 hotel rooms at the Best Western Ruidoso Inn (505.257-3600) that is only a few blocks from Holy Mount. When you call tell them you are with the Episcopal Church and the rate will be \$62.10 plus tax for rooms in an assortment of king or two queen beds.

Friday evening, April 20, will be an informal time together at 6:00PM that will include dinner and entertainment.

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Deanery Meeting

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The heart of the Spring Gathering will be on **Saturday 9:30AM-2:30PM at Holy Mount parish** with refreshments in the morning and lunch at noon provided by the women's guild. There is no registration fee for the Gathering, and the charge for lunch will be a modest one.

The guest speaker for the Gathering is Neil Riley from the Diocese of Colorado and the theme is **Congregational Development through Spiritual Formation**. Mr. Riley is a Canadian and a seminary graduate, and is the Canon for Christian Formation in the Diocese of Colorado, where he directs an innovative formation program for people of all ages including children. His presentation on Saturday will be in two parts, morning and afternoon, and the meeting will adjourn by 2:30PM.

Last Month's Question: What is meant by the phrase "The Church Universal"

Answer: The "Church Universal" refers to "The idea that all Christians form part of a single body. Note that the original etymological form of the word *catholic* meant 'universal'".

- from encyclopedia.freedictionary.com

The Church Universal is made up of Christians world wide of many denominations; Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Episcopal, Lutheran, Baptist, etc.

This Month's Question: Why do we call Easter "Easter"?

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 1st
Regular Service Times

Maundy Thursday, April 12th
St. James' - 5pm | St. Paul's - 7pm

Good Friday, April 13th
St. Paul's - Noon | St. James' - 3pm

Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 14th
Beginning at the First Christian Church in Marfa at 7:00pm and continuing at St. Paul's

Easter Day, April 15th
Regular Service Times

Casa de la Rosa Open House

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Hard Questions

How do you read the Bible? Reading, by its very nature involves interpretation. When we learn to read, we learn to interpret symbols on a page and derive meaning from them. We call these symbols "letters." Letters form words, words form sentences, and sentences convey meaning. If we try reading the Bible in a foreign language that is not familiar to us, it will be impossible for us to interpret the symbols on the page and understand the meaning they may suggest. But, as we read the Bible in a language we are familiar with, our interpretation of the words and sentences causes us to see meaning in what we read. The meaning and importance of what we read is subject to our interpretation, and it is very common for Christians to see different meanings in the same passages. This difference in interpretation is one of the reasons that the Episcopal church has traditionally relied on three sources of Christian understanding, Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. Despite the fact that the Holy Spirit works hard to help us understand Holy Scripture properly, we often miss the subtle meanings and even the major themes. By relying on the guidance of hundreds of years of tradition and by combining the rational talents God has given each of us, we maximize the chances of "getting it right." - Seth



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