



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – February 2007

## “I will with God’s Help” - Mission Retreat

Our Annual Big Bend Mission Retreat will be held this year from February 23<sup>rd</sup> thru the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Longhorn Motel. Our focus this year will be on our Baptismal Vows – on what we promised and on the challenging ways of living into those promises. As always, the retreat is a chance to get together, to kick back and relax, and to explore ways in which we, as a community, can grow together in Christ. The retreat will begin at 5pm on



### Tentative Retreat Schedule

#### Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

5:00-6:00pm Arrival & *Happy Hour*  
6:30pm Dinner  
7:30pm-9:00pm First Session

#### Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Breakfast  
9:00am-noon Second Session  
12:00 noon Lunch  
Afternoon - Free time  
6:30pm Dinner  
7:30-9:00pm Third Session

#### Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

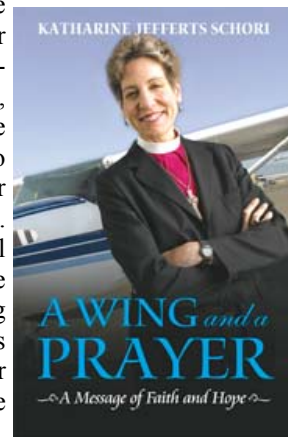
8:00am Breakfast  
9:00-10:30am Final Session  
11:00am Holy Eucharist

Friday with a ‘hospitality hour’ followed by dinner at 6:30. If all goes as planned, there will be an opening session on Friday following dinner, a Saturday morning session, and then Saturday afternoon will be free to spend however you wish. Discussions on Saturday evening and Sunday morning will round out the program, and we will conclude the retreat with Holy Eucharist at 11am on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come for all or for part of the time, and to bring friends with you. Reservations at the Longhorn may be made by calling 432-371-2541. Please tell them you are with the Big Bend Mission group. If you have any questions, please call 1-888-BIG-BEND.

## Presiding Bishop’s Book

Katharine Jefferts Schori is a bishop on the move—she pilots her plane to remote parishes around the sprawling diocese of Nevada and shares her passionate message of reconciliation and peace. As the first female primate

in the 500-year history of Anglicanism, she’ll have the opportunity to speak to a far wider audience. This book will be the vehicle for introducing Bishop Jefferts Schori and her platform to the wider Church.



The book can be ordered in advance at [www.morehousepublishing.org](http://www.morehousepublishing.org). Publication is scheduled for January 2007.

## New Bishop’s Committee Takes Office

For 2007, the Big Bend Episcopal Mission Bishop’s Committee members are Dedie Taylor, Tom Graf, Virginia Knab, JoLynn Suell, and Marcy Reed. A big welcome to Jo Lynn who has not served on the Bishop’s Committee before. Dedie Taylor will be Bishop’s Warden. The Bishop’s committee is charged with handling the practical affairs of the Mission such as finances, maintenance, and outreach. Meetings are held almost every month on a Saturday at 10:30am. The location generally alternates between St. Paul’s and St. James’. Everyone is welcome to attend. Specific meeting locations and times are shown on the Circuit Rider calendar. The photos from top left to bottom right are Dedie Taylor, Tom Graf, Virginia Knab, JoLynn Suell, and Marcy Reed.



## Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent

Lent will be upon us before we know it. The annual Pancake Supper will be held at St. Paul’s again this year on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7pm. Listen for announcements about opportunities to help set up, cook, and serve.



Ash Wednesday services will be held at all three churches on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup>; St Paul’s at 9am, St. James’ at Noon, and Sts. Mary and Joseph’s at 6pm.

There will be a pot luck supper and Lenten study each Tuesday during Lent at St. James’ at 6pm. The topic will be the Gospel of Luke.

## Presiding Bishop Calls for Renewal of Israel/Palestine Peace Initiative

[Episcopal News Service] Nearly 40 leaders of a broad coalition of Christian denominations sent a letter to President George W. Bush on January 23 asking that he "make Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking, in the context of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace initiative" an "urgent priority" for his administration.



Among those signing the letter were Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori; the Rev. Michael Livingston, president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) and executive director of the International Council of Community Churches, one of the NCC's 35 member denominations; and the Rev. Bob Edgar, general secretary of the NCC.

"Even though we are from a wide range of Christian traditions -- Orthodox, Catholic, mainstream and evangelical Protestants -- we stand close together in our hopes and prayers for peace in the land we all call Holy and for the reconciliation of the children of Abraham -- Jews, Christians and Muslims," says the letter to the president.

"We commend your vision of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state living as a peaceful neighbor alongside the state of Israel, with both nations secure and recognized by their neighbors," says the letter. "With your active engagement, this vision could reignite a passion for peace that can overcome the appeal of violence, vengeance and exclusivity."

The leaders also expressed concern for the Palestinian Christian community.

"The Palestinian Christian leaders have asked us to bring to your attention the very grave situation of Jerusalem," state the U.S. Christian leaders. "With the construction by Israel of the separation barrier, many of the faithful -- both Christians and Muslims -- are excluded from the Holy City, and Jerusalem is severed from Bethlehem."

## Weekly Millenium Goals Inserts

Each week we are seeing an insert in our Sunday bulletins about achieving the U.N. Millennium Development goals. The eight United Nations "MDG's" form a blueprint agreed to by the world's countries and leading development institutions. They are the Episcopal Church's Top priority for the next three years. To the more than one billion of God's people around the world who live each day in extreme poverty, the most important thing each of us can do today is visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE) and become "ONE Episcopalian." People of faith are key to building the will to achieve the MDG's. The Episcopal Church's 75th General Convention endorsed this new effort called ONE Episcopalian in which the church has partnered with ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History ([www.ONE.org](http://www.ONE.org).) Watch your Sunday bulletins for more information each week and become ONE Episcopalian.



### Last Month's Question: Who was St. Valentine?

**Answer:** "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February. One is described as a priest at Rome, another as bishop of Interamna (modern Terni [Italy]), and these two seem both to have suffered in the second half of the third century. Of the third Saint Valentine, who suffered in Africa with a number of companions, nothing further is known."

- from the Catholic Encyclopedia

### This Month's Question: What is the origin of the word "Lent"?



### Hard Questions

Much fuss has been made down through the ages about sustaining and preserving the true faith. We so often tend to forget that, when actually practiced, our faith is a living and self-sustaining faith. The lives of the apostles bear witness to the fact that doing nothing more than living the faith causes it to spread and maintain itself. No extraordinary effort is needed. In fact, efforts to preserve, protect, and correct the Church have most often lead to schism, deterioration, and distraction in the life of faith. Living our faith takes time, effort, and help from God. Too often our time and effort gets diverted and we tend to substitute preserving the faith for living it. The shared love of Jesus Christ is infectious, contagious, and healing. It's our faith. All we have to do is actually live it, and it will sustain and preserve itself with God's help. - Seth



**The next Threshold Quiet Day will be held at the First Christian Church on the town square in Marfa on Saturday, February 4th. Doors open at 6:30am and the day ends at 2:30pm. Everyone is invited to come for as little or as much time as they like. Have you had your silence this month?**



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