



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – July and August 2005

Ruth Gibson Speaks to First Class as Graduates

In a fitting tribute to her influence on their lives, Ruth Gibson was invited by her former students to give the address to the 2005 graduating class at Big Bend High School. Ruth started teaching 1st grade at the Terlingua School in the early 90's. The students graduating this year were in her first 1st grade class. Having kept a journal of her experiences through the years, Ruth was able



to reminisce about the graduates when they were in 1st grade.

Ruth and Roger Gibson have moved to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area where Roger will be better situated for his business, and Ruth will find work teaching. They are both looking forward to being closer to family. They will be sorely missed in the Big Bend, but have promised to visit from time to time. Best wishes to Ruth and Roger, we love you.



The Vicar Will be on Vacation in August and Will be on Sabbatical in September and October.

Celebration of Kelshaw Ministry

Two Celebrations of Ministry will honor Bishop Kelshaw's episcopacy in the Diocese of the Rio Grande before he retires on August 1, 2005. One will be held in on Saturday, July 16, 2005, at the Marriott, Albuquerque, and one on Saturday, July 23, 2005, at the Camino Real, El Paso. Both celebrations will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

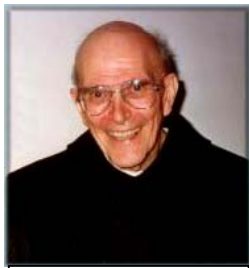


St. Pauls Group Meets to Study Centering Prayer

Pat McMurray is facilitator for a group meeting Wednesday nights in the St. Paul's Parish Hall at 7pm. The group is currently viewing six video presentations covering Centering Prayer Practice by Thomas Keating. Group members have read *Invitation to Love*, by Thomas Keating. Some have also started *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Keating. Books are available to borrow or purchase.



Centering Prayer is a *method* of prayer, which prepares us to receive the gift of God's presence, traditionally called contemplative prayer. It consists of responding to the Spirit of Christ by consenting to God's presence and action within. It furthers the development of contemplative prayer by quieting our faculties to cooperate with the gift of God's presence.



Fr. Thomas Keating

Centering Prayer facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer — verbal, mental or affective prayer — into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God. At the same time, it is a discipline to foster and serve this relationship by a regular, daily practice of prayer. It is Trinitarian in its source, Christ-centered in its focus, and ecclesial in its effects; that is, it builds communities of faith.

Centering Prayer is drawn from ancient prayer practices of the Christian contemplative heritage, notably the Fathers and Mothers of the Desert, *Lectio Divina*, (praying the scriptures), *The Cloud of Unknowing*, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila.. It was distilled into a simple method of prayer in the 1970's by three Trappist monks, Fr. William Meninger, Fr. Basil Pennington and Abbot Thomas Keating at the Trappist Abbey, St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts.

Remaining Meeting Dates

- July 13: The Basic Principles of Centering Prayer
- July 20: The Method of Centering Prayer I and II
- August 3: The Psychology of Centering Prayer
- (No meeting on July 27th as originally planned.)

A Centering Prayer group may be formed after the current class has ended. A weekend class may be offered in the Fall.

For more information, contact Pat McMurray at 426-3196 or email bpmcmurray@sbcglobal.net.

K.C. Avery Graduates

St. James' member K.C. Avery graduated from 6th grade at Dirks Anderson Elementary in Ft. Davis. She received several UIL District awards including First Place in Maps and Graphs, First Place in Art, and Third Place in Oral Reading. "KC" is the daughter of Jennifer Probst Avery and the granddaughter of Jack and Judy Probst.



GO KC! WE LOVE YOU!

Last Month's Question: How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

Answer: We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

This Month's Question:

How is the Church described in the Bible?

K-9 Obedience Classes at St. James'

Over the past few Tuesdays, the St. James' Parish Hall has gone to the dogs. The obe-

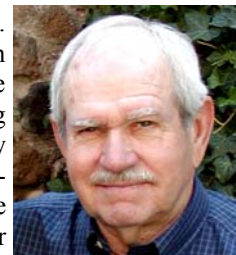


dience classes, taught by Allison Beaulieu and started at the home of Mimi Smith, moved indoors to get away from the heat.



Big Bend Mission Note Cards Available

Thanks to the talent and generosity of Bill Brown of St. Paul's, note cards are now available for all three churches in the Big Bend Mission. Bill's "day job" is working for the federal government as the veterinarian examining cattle being imported from Mexico, but he has been an artist for many years. A pack of 12 note cards and envelopes is \$10.00. Proceeds benefit the Big Bend Mission budget. Packs of cards are available in the parish halls at St. Paul's and St. James', or check with Judy or Elaine.



Hard Questions

How much do you put in the collection plate on Sunday morning? For a short time in the 1970's I lived on a sailboat in the Bahamas and didn't have a car. There was no Episcopal Church within walking distance on Great Abaco island, but the local Roman Catholic Church sent a van around to the hotels and marinas to pick tourists up and take them to church on Sundays. I took advantage of the van ride one Sunday and the sermon that day has stayed with me all these years. The priest reflected on how everyone seems to complain about the value of the dollar. People say "A dollar just doesn't buy anything any more." (And this was the 70's.) But, the priest went on to say, "A dollar bill seems to be considered worthless until it comes time to put something in the collection plate on Sunday morning. Suddenly a dollar becomes the most valuable thing people have to offer." This hit me like a ton of bricks. There is nothing inherently wrong with putting a dollar in the collection plate, but I suddenly realized that was all I EVER put in the collection plate. I was not poor. A dollar was not all I could afford. I had simply never given any thought to my giving. When the plate came around, that's what you were supposed to do, put a dollar in it. I made a promise to God that day. I promised to never put just a dollar in a collection plate again. Sundays when I open my wallet to find only a twenty dollar bill and a one dollar bill can be pretty challenging. The Ministry of the Big Bend Mission exists in part because of your financial support. Take time to give prayerful thought to your giving. -Seth



"He's not moving to the next row. I don't think we gave him enough. Do you have any more cash?"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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Recognize this Church?



This is a photograph of the first St. Paul's Church in Marfa. It stood in the place where the Paisano Hotel now stands. Many of the windows and furnishings in the present St. Paul's church came from this church. The photo is from the Harper Collection.

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***Circuit Rider* Takes a Break in August**

Summer is a quieter time in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission. This issue of the *Circuit Rider* covers July and August. The next issue will be in September.



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