



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – July & August 2006

## General Convention Elects New Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Church, 30 years after it allowed women to become priests and bishops, has elected a woman as its Presiding Bishop. Katharine Jefferts Schori, 52, bishop of Nevada, was elected on the fifth ballot June 18 by her colleagues in the House of Bishops from a slate of seven nominees. The House of Deputies confirmed the election the same day, as is required by church law. The election took place during the church's 75th General Convention, meeting in Columbus, Ohio.



The 26th Presiding Bishop-elect will be the first woman to hold the top post in the church's nearly 400-year history. Her nine year term officially begins November 1; she will be invested and seated November 4 during a liturgy at Washington National Cathedral. She will succeed Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold.

An airplane pilot and former oceanographer, Jefferts Schori addressed deputies and visitors who gathered in the Columbus Convention Center in both Spanish and English. She thanked the other nominees and emphasized her passion for mission. She also offered a vision of reconciliation and actualization of the reign of God.

The Presiding Bishop-elect's vision to lead the church comes out of the prophet Isaiah's vision of the reign of God and includes such United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as eradicating poverty and hunger.

"The poor are fed, the good news is preached, those who are ostracized and in prison are set free, the blind receive sight," Jefferts Schori said June 18 during a news conference following her election.

The committee charged with nominating bishops for the position issued a call for nominees in March 2004. It said the church was seeking bishops who are "intensely grounded in the love of Jesus Christ, living out their lives in the Spirit and articulating zeal for the Gospel."

The Presiding Bishop is the key leader in articulating the vision and mission of the church, and assessing its work, as well as advocates for social justice in this country and in the world. The Presiding Bishop "will lead us into the reality of a multicultural church," the committee said.

As our chief pastor, the Presiding Bishop is our chief preacher and liturgical leader, and oversees the pastoral care and spiritual wellness of bishops. The Presiding Bishop is a leader in the Anglican Communion and in this role takes the title of Primate, from the Latin for leader. The Primate works to improve the human condition and works toward the reconciliation of all persons as we live out the Gospel.

More information on the election and on General Convention can be found at [www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/gc2006news/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/gc2006news/).

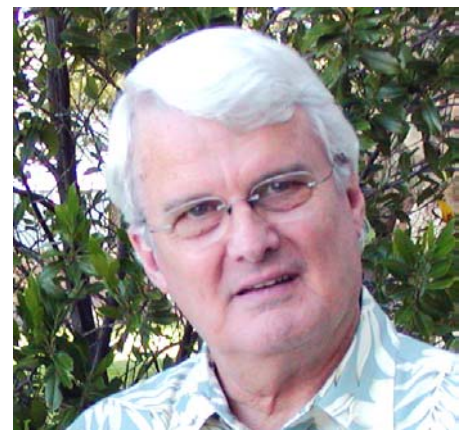
See page 2 for more information on the Presiding Bishop Elect's priorities.

## Ken Whitley Publishes New Book

Ken Whitley, member of St. Paul's, has published a new book titled *The Wind Blows the High Grass*. Ken retired in Marfa after being raised up on piney woods and Cajun rice in southwest Louisiana.



His book is a collection of lyrics and stories. Those of us who have come to know Ken, can see ourselves in his work even more than we did in his previous book, *A Fire in the Place*. He considers it pure "lagniappe" if



a line, a lyric, or a little story causes you to pause, think, smile. "Lagniappe" means a little something extra. It's a Louisiana French (and Trinidadian Creole English) word, derived from American Spanish *la ñapa*. Ken will read selections from his book at the Marfa Book Company on Saturday, July 1st at 5:30pm.

## Circuit Rider Takes a Break in August

This issue of the *Circuit Rider* covers July and August. The next issue will be in September.

## Big Bend Mission Sign Adorns Center Field

Thanks to the efforts of St. James' member, Pam Marett, the Big Bend Mission has a sign for baseball fans to see in center field at the Little League baseball diamond



in Alpine. Pam's son Peyton is often seen acolyting at St. James' and is on the Little League baseball team in Alpine.

## Priorities of the Presiding Bishop Elect

In a pre-Convention interview, Presiding Bishop Elect Katharine Jefferts Schori indicated that the priorities for the next Presiding Bishop should include bridge-building and boundary-crossing as well as "moving our sanctuaries into the streets to encounter and transform the bad news of this world." She added that implementing the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of embracing and celebrating diversity, eradicating poverty and hunger, and creating an environmentally sustainable world are also priorities.

## St. James' Prayer Fellowship Views Keating Videos

The St. James' Prayer Fellowship has started viewing the Thomas Keating tapes on Centering Prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend. With a few exceptions, the Prayer Fellowship meets at



the home of Al & Thelma Hoyle at 7pm on Tuesday evenings. For exceptions to meeting times, see the calendars on the following pages.

## Evelyn Luciani Travels to Mexico with Spanish Club

St. Paul's member, Evelyn Luciani joined 19 students from Marfa High School for an eight day trip through the interior of Mexico. St. Paul's members Lon and Dedie Taylor were among the contributors who made it possible for the students to ride the train to Copper Canyon. Other destinations included Mazatlan, El Espinazo del Diablo, and Creel. Activities included hiking, kayaking, shopping, a beach party, and a trip to an aquarium. Evelyn joined the group as a chaperone along with five other adults from the Marfa community.



**Last Month's Question:** What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

**Answer:** By his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and opened for us the way of eternal life.

**This Month's Question:** What is the New Commandment?



## Hard Questions

A few years ago, the news media and others were accusing President Bill Clinton of "compartmentalizing" his personal problems and his public persona. Compartmentalizing is probably not a real word, but the meaning is clear. In certain situations we deny that another situation exists. In the church, this is common practice. Some people behave one way when they are in church, or at a church gathering, and behave another way at other times and places. At times, in our daily lives, we deny that our life of faith even exists. Peter did it three times after Jesus was arrested. This kind of compartmentalization comes from a lack of confidence in our faith. To gain the confidence needed to live our faith at all times and in all places, we need to dig around and find what it is that leads us to deny as Peter did. Are we in fear of rejection, do we think others won't understand, is our vision of God too weak, do we not know what to say? God is with us at our times of doubt. However, unless we uncover the roadblocks to confidence in Him and allow God to build our confidence in him we are likely to go on compartmentalizing indefinitely. -Seth

**The Labyrinth construction day at St. James' was postponed due to heat and dust levels. A new date will be announced.**

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"God never takes a vacation 'cause He can't find anybody good enough to fill in."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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The Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org

HC 65, Box 272  
Alpine, TX 79830  
888/BIG-BEND  
(432/371-2255)

judithlynn@rionet.coop  
eponton@brooksdata.net  
seth@equimax.com

**The Sunday 10am St. James' Book Club/Study Group will meet on a staggered schedule in July and August. Check the calendars for meeting dates.**



Big Bend Episcopal Mission  
HC 65, Box 272  
Alpine, TX 79830