



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – May 2006

## The Threshold Hosts Benson Retreat



Anticipation continues to build as we prepare for a three-day retreat, which will be led by well-known author, Robert Benson on May 5, 6 and 7, 2006 at the First Christian Church, Marfa, Texas. Mr. Benson's books include *A Good Life: Benedict's Guide to Everyday Joy*; *Living Prayer*; *Between the Dreaming and the Coming True*; *Venite: A Book of Daily Prayer*; *That We May Perfectly Love Thee: Preparing our Hearts for the Eucharist*; and *The Body Broker: Answering God's Call to Love One Another*.

Threshold participants feel very fortunate to have received a resounding "YES" from Robert Benson when he was asked to lead a retreat for us. He only leads about six each year and was very gracious and kind to accept our invitation. Mark your calendar. Put a big red circle around May 5, 6, and 7 and join us for a retreat you will never forget and will be thankful that you didn't miss.

The fee for the retreat is \$55.00 for the three-day event. Five meals are included in your registration fee. Sessions will be held at the First Christian Church in Marfa. The retreat is limited to 40 persons. For information on attending, please contact Aurie West by calling 432-729-4878, email [auriewest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:auriewest@sbcglobal.net) or write to The Threshold, P.O. Box 716, Marfa, TX, 79843.



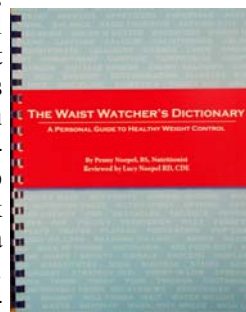
Benson Retreat Schedule		
	<b>Saturday, May 6</b>	5:45 Dinner
	8:15 Lauds	6:30 Session Four
<b>Friday, May 5</b>	8:45 Breakfast	8:45 Compline
4:00 Registration/Check-in	9:15 Session Two	
4:30 Opening Session	12:00 None	<b>Sunday, May 7</b>
5:30 Eucharist	12:30 Lunch	9:00 Eucharist (at St Pauls)
6:00 Dinner	1:15 Rest & Reflection	10:30 Brunch
6:45 Session One	2:45 Session Three	11:00 Closing Session
8:45 Compline	5:15 Vespers	1:00 Closing Prayers

## Watching Your Waist the Penny Nopel Way



Penny Nopel, a long time member of St. James', has published a new book called *The Waist Watcher's Dictionary*. Written in a breezy style for lay persons, the book is

designed to educate, motivate and support persons over the time it takes to reach and keep a healthy weight. Penny is a nutrition educator experienced in the area of weight control. In the book, she has used the principle of mnemonics, a system designed to assist and develop the memory. The ABC words, when familiar, will come to mind at appropriate times and influence you in making decisions which help you keep on track and achieve a healthy weight. Her book also contains a resource section with suggestions, recipes, a shopping list, calorie guide and more.



Penny has also published a booklet titled *The Token Way - Balance Your Calorie Budget Without Counting Calories!* For information on her publications, contact Penny at 432/364-2419.

## Border Kids Discuss Border Issues



The Boys & Girls Clubs of America encourages member kids to dialog regularly on subjects of national interest. Four Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua kids in the 11-14 age group and their group coordinator discussed guest worker programs, solutions for illegal immigrants, and border security. Everyone in the group is an American citizen, but either has family in Mexico or knows someone who does. They made some pretty amazing observations which boiled down to "treat others as you want them to treat you."

When asked what we should do about the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in the United States the kids said, "President (continued on back of calendar)

## Congratulations to Joe and Melissa



Joe Williams and Melissa Keane were married at St. Paul's on April 8, 2006. Congratulations from all of us in the Big Bend Mission.

## Betty Reed Plants Memorial to Maxine Haislip

Thanks to the efforts of Betty Reed, the Otra Vez Thrift Store has a cactus garden as a memorial to Maxine Haislip. Until her death in early 2005, Maxine was the driving force behind Otra Vez and many other worthy projects in South Brewster County. Betty has stepped in to fill the void left by Maxine. Her thoughtful memorial and her efforts at the store are greatly appreciated.



## Boys & Girls Club Battered by High Winds

On Wednesday evening, April 19th, the first significant rain of the year in South Brewster County came through "like a lion." The Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua was hit by high winds and hail. The roof of the mobile home behind the club was peeled back, and the electric cable to



the club building was cut by flying debris. The cable showered sparks on the building, but heavy rain prevented a fire. The fire department stood by until Rio Grande Electric arrived to cut the power. Damage to the club itself was limited to the loss of the electric meter loop. The building is owned by Brewster County and thanks to the efforts of county commissioner Ruben Ortega, repairs should be completed this week. If repairs are complete, the club will reopen Monday, May 1st.

**Last Month's Question:** Why do we not use our freedom as we should?

**Answer:** Because we rebel against God, and we put ourselves in the place of God.

**This Month's Question:** What is meant by a covenant with God?



### Hard Questions

The newly discovered documents describing the role of Judas in the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus have added to theories about Judas' motivations for "turning Jesus in" to Jewish leaders. Little is known about Judas, and speculation down through the years about his motives has varied widely. Tradition suggests that Judas betrayed Jesus in exchange for money. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth*, director Franco Zeffirelli suggests that Judas thought he was helping Jesus by arranging a meeting with Jewish leaders to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah. News reports say that the recently discovered documents describe Judas as following specific instructions from Jesus to "turn him in." Whether Judas was a traitor, a well intentioned idealist, or an accomplice will probably remain a mystery, but the lesson Judas has for us is quite clear. Any motivation found in Judas is also found in you and I. We all know what it means to betray, manipulate, control, and have our own way at the expense of others. We know what it means to have events go very differently than we expect or want. Judas' actual motivations for what he did are a matter of discussion for historians and theologians. The rest of us are challenged by Judas to find the Judas that lives within us and turn him over to God in prayer. - Seth

## In Memory of Jack Probst

The recent unexpected death of Jack Probst has left a great void in our hearts. Jack was a team player, coach, teacher, administrator, father, grandfather, husband and believer who excelled in all these roles.



Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Big Bend Education Corporation, the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua, or the St. James' Labyrinth Fund and sent to the Big Bend Mission address at the right

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The ride of faith is not always a smooth ride, but the author of life rides along with us. - photo from the Harper Collection

## Border Kids (continued from page one)

Bush should change places with an immigrant for a day! Most of the immigrants are **not** criminals; they are people just like us. They have families and are trying to make a living and be good citizens. They want to be here. If we send them back, they will just come here again. Many of them are doing jobs Americans don't want to do and we should find a way to make it possible for them to stay." One participant suggested that they could pay a small fee to stay here. "All of us have ancestors who were immigrants", they said. "If we send back everyone who is descended from immigrants, the country would be pretty empty."

"A lot of the illegal immigrants have kids who are American citizens. If we send the parents back, what happens to the kids? They need our help. They are not exactly rich. This is their home as much as ours. People should learn to get along. If an illegal immigrant does something bad and breaks some other laws, then the immigrant should be sent back. But, we need to stop thinking that every one of them is a bad person. Some of them are just as good or even better than we are."

When asked about the idea of putting up a wall along the border to stop illegal immigration, the kids said, "They can't build a wall so high or bury it so deep that they won't find a way to climb over it or dig under it. If the Border Patrol gets tougher, the immigrants might get hurt. Making it harder to cross the border **legally** just makes it more likely that people will try to cross illegally."

All of the kids were in favor of some type of guest worker program, but they were not sure how it would work. They were more concerned that we treat people who need our help with fairness and compassion. The Boys and Girls Club of Terlingua has over 100 members representing nearly half of the youth in the Terlingua area. Community support for the club is booming, but funding is scarce. For information on the club, call 432/371-2333 or write to the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua, P.O. Box 421, Terlingua, TX 79852.



Concerned about the needs of others? Check out Episcopal Relief and Development and make a difference. On the web: <http://er-d.org/>



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