



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – October 2008

## Threshold Retreat Weekend - Simplicity and the Sabbath



On the weekend of October 31-November 2, 2008 The Threshold will be sponsoring a weekend retreat at Casa de la Rosa. Suzanne Stabile and her husband, The Rev. Joseph Stabile will lead the retreat. The Stabiles will help us in deepening and learning and honoring the Sabbath, in setting apart a day to let God be God. Suzanne and Joe will share with us song, story and prayer. Suzanne Stabile and her husband, the Rev. Joseph Stabile are cofounders of Life in the Trinity Ministry. An abbreviated version of the workshop was presented as part of the Center for Action and Contemplation's The Great Chain of Being: Simplifying our Lives.



The suggested donation for the retreat is \$75.00 which includes five meals. Scholarships are available in lieu of donation. The retreat schedule is Friday, 4:30 to 8:20 PM; Saturday, 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM with some free time in the afternoon, and Sunday 10:30 AM to noon following the 9:00 AM service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marfa. For more information or to make a reservation for the Stabile Retreat contact: Tom Graf at tgraf11@gmail.com or 432-386-0777 or Aurie West at auriewest@sbcglobal.net or 432-729-4878.

## Thank you from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your support during Elaine's illness. Elaine, Seth and I all felt surrounded and upheld by your prayers. Prayer does make a difference. We also knew that you were there if anything were needed from town. Some of you did drop everything to make the "pony express" run with medicine or whatever was needed. We also knew that there were more willing people than we could possibly call on. Please, be assured that you were an important part of this difficult time.

Please, continue to keep Seth and me in your prayers as we begin to learn to live without Elaine. She was a blessing to all of us. She loved the Big Bend Mission and she loved all of you. I know that we are all grieving her loss. I know it is impossible to walk into St. James' or St. Paul's and not think of Elaine; she was such a key part of our lives. In time, I hope our sense of loss will become thanksgiving for the wonderful and vibrant life that Elaine shared with us. I know that I am a better person for having had her as a friend and as a fellow priest. I think we are all better for having had her in our lives.

In an effort to help us see the blessing Elaine gave us, even as we grieve her loss, I have asked the Rev. Rhoda Montgomery to spend an evening helping us with our grief. That evening will be Tuesday, November 11th. The workshop will be at The Threshold and start at 6pm. Please save that evening and plan to join us.

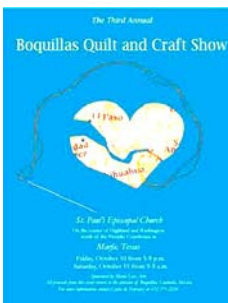
- Judy

## St. Pauls Hosts Quilt Show

The third annual Boquillas Quilt and Craft Show will be held in the St. Paul's parish hall on Friday, October 10th from 5-9pm, and Saturday, October 11th from 9-5pm. The show is brought to



you by Fronteras Unlimited and sponsored by Marfa Live Arts. This will be the last show as part of a program to assist the women of Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico with quilt making. Janice Schindeler, an "ace quilter" from Houston, (shown in the photo) has been teaching quilting to the ladies of Boquillas. She is sister of Wilma Schindeler of the Gage in



Marathon. Over 35 women are now proficient quilters.

## The Rev. Rhoda Montgomery to Present a Workshop on Grief at The Threshold

All of us grieve over the many losses we experience in life. The recent loss of the Rev. Elaine Ponton from our midst gives us an opportunity to explore the grieving process with greater immediacy. On Tuesday evening, November 11th at 6pm, The Rev. Rhoda Montgomery will be coming to The Threshold at Casa de la Rosa to help us through this difficult time. The Rev. Ms. Montgomery serves as Canon for Christian Formation on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral in the Diocese of Texas. She is a 2001 graduate of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest and a 1983 graduate of Baylor University. Prior to her life as an ordained priest she served as the manager of the Austin Ronald McDonald House for 12 years. In her work there she *(continued on page two)*

## New Arrival for Marcy & Reagan Reed



Although past her due date, Marcy gave birth to a healthy baby girl "Asa Adell Reed" on Sunday, September 28th. Several family members arrived to help out. Marcy currently serves on the Big



Bend Mission Bishop's Committee.

## Grief Workshop (from page one)

became a certified bereavement facilitator and founded the House's aftercare program for families whose children died. She has also worked in a pediatric oncology office, served as a hospital chaplain and was the Associate Rector and then Locum Tenens of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Austin from 2001 until May of this year. Everyone is invited to attend the workshop. Please bring a salad or something light to share for dinner.

## Conference on Healing - An Ecumenical Event

Members of the Big Bend Chapter of the Order of St. Luke (OSL) sponsored their first Annual Conference on Healing August 23, 2008 in Alpine at the First Presbyterian Church. Thirty-five people attended. Nancy Antrim spoke on the history and mission of the Order of St. Luke. Conference Leaders Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield of Deep River Ministries, San Antonio, taught about the healing ministry. Two co-chaplains, the Rev. Jobeth McLeod of the First Pres-



byterian Church and the Rev. Jane Vaughan of the First United Methodist Church were formally inducted. Nancy Antrim was received into full membership in the OSL. Bonnie McNamara with pianist/vocalist Penny Hardaway led the conference in beautiful selection of songs. The day culminated in a healing service. The following day, the Rev. Sheffield preached at St. James' during Sunday service. (continued on the back of the calendar)

**Last Month's Question:** What is the "Apocrypha"?

**Answer:** The term "apocrypha" was coined by the fifth-century biblical scholar St. Jerome and refers to the biblical books included as part of the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament), but not included in the Hebrew Bible. Some modern Bibles include the Apocrypha.

**This Month's Question:** What is a "Locum Tenens"?

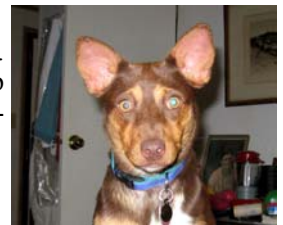
## Dear Hankie - Advice to the lovelorn and spiritually downtrodden

Dear Hankie,

I just don't know. My friend died left a big hole in my heart. I'm confused, because it feels like she is still here, but I keep realizing she's not. I don't know where she is and I'm worried about her. Is she O.K.? Please help me figure this out.

signed "Confused"

(continued on the back of the calendar)



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### Healing Mission *(from page two)*

Kudos to everyone who helped. Al Hoyle, served as photographer. A book table was organized by Thelma with selections from the OSL required and recommended lists. Nancy Antrim, headed up hospitality. Thanks to the members of St. James' and First Presbyterian for providing food and flowers. Virginia Knab handled registration, the program bulletin, and headed up communications. Her daughter, Teresa Ritter, designed the flyers and ad for the Avalanche. Bonnie McNamara and Virginia distributed flyers. Thanks to Tom Graf for providing printing of programs, and some flyers! Also thanks to the Avalanche for publishing the ad in donated space! And a very special thank you to those who could not attend, but lifted the event up in prayer throughout the day. For information on joining the Big Bend Chapter of the OSL, talk to: Thelma or Al Hoyle, Nancy Antrim, Bonnie McNamara, or Virginia Knab. You may also contact us at [BigBendOSL@gmail.com](mailto:BigBendOSL@gmail.com).

### Dear Hankie *(from page two)*

Dear Confused,

Get a grip. Your friend is OK. The Creator still cares for her just as She cares for you and me. We are all part of one communion, a dance of the three-in-one, giving and receiving, loving and being loved. If you listen carefully to the sound of the wind you will hear her voice. She is closer to you now than before.

By the way, thanks for the casserole! It was delicious.

signed "Hankie"



The Rev. William Miller, sometimes seen in Marfa, led a discussion at The Threshold Quiet Day the first Saturday in August and presided at Sunday morning services at St. Paul's the following day. He is also the author of *The Gospel According to Sam: Animal Stories for the Soul*.



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