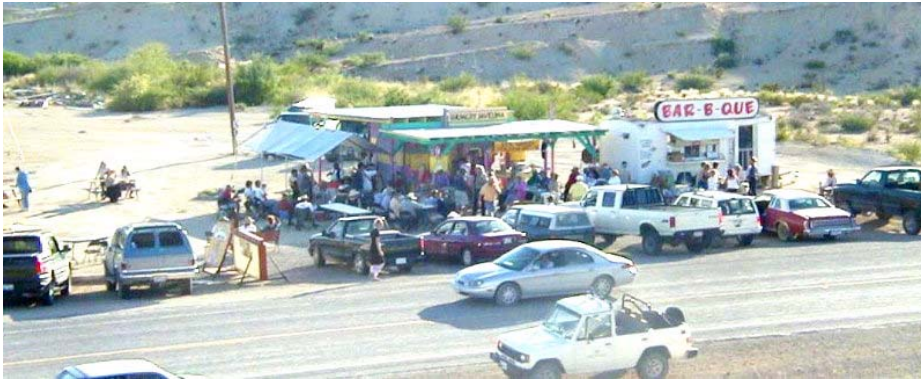




The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – May 2004

Youth Club Nets \$1700 from Trash Can Dinner



On Tuesday, April 13th, the Big Bend Youth Club hosted a “trash can” dinner to raise money for the club. A trash can dinner is cooked outside in a trash can (a new clean one). Meat, vegetables, and other stuff are layered in the can, and the whole thing is simmered over an open fire until done. The community turned out for the affair, and about \$1700 was raised for the club.

Drawing at Next SBCCDC Meeting: Donate \$25 and Win 5 Acres

The drawing for the 5 acres of land just off the entrance road to Terlingua Ranch is coming up on May 3rd. Act now if you want to get a raffle ticket. Proceeds benefit the Big Bend Youth Club. Tickets are \$25 each. Contact Beth Garcia at 432/371-2304 or garciabeth2003@yahoo.com.

Bonnie McNamara

Bonnie McNamara is originally from Minneapolis. She discovered the Episcopal Church thanks to her two daughters (now living in Medford, Oregon) who had been to the "blue jeans" or 5 o'clock service at



St. David's in Austin with high school friends. This was the first time she had set foot in an Episcopal Church, and she wondered why someone hadn't told her about it before.

Bonnie started attending St. James' in 1986 or thereabouts. She lives in Alpine, where she maintains a web site and edits for her husband Jack. At St. James', she is much appreciated as a Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer. She enjoys reading, especially church history and theology.

At home, you may find Bonnie listening to classical music, surfing the internet, reading, or delving into dog care.

Mothers' Day Thought -- *If you have faithfully, lovingly, and vainly tried to impart wisdom to your children, remember that God Himself had problems raising Adam and Eve. Why do you think it should be any easier for you?*

-- author unknown

Jack Probst Reports on Discernment Committee



The Diocesan Episcopal Discernment Committee for the election of a bishop coadjutor met on Monday, April 19th at St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso. Our representative, Jack Probst, reports that work was done on the profile of the Diocese and some changes were made. Reports were made on Discernment meetings around the diocese. 80 people attended the El Paso meeting, 120 came to the Albuquerque meeting, and 90 clergy were present in Las Cruces at the annual Clergy Conference. Reports were made about the election process, and discussion followed. Extensive reports were given on the survey sent to all diocesan households. Over 7000 surveys were sent out. 26% were returned.

Rural Texas returned just 39 surveys. Jack says he was disappointed by the limited participation. The next meeting of the Committee will be in mid-May.

For More Election Information, Visit the Diocesan Web Site at <http://riogrande.anglican.org>

Kairos Prison Ministry Extends Invitation to Closing

On Sunday, May 23rd from 4pm - 6pm Kairos #6 will conduct its “closing” at the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility in Santa Rosa, NM. Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is the parent organization of a body of ministries addressing the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, and children, their families, and those who work in the prison environment. Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from Cursillo and those other movements that consider Cursillo as their root. *(continued on the back of the calendar)*



Early Rains - Desert Blooms



Hard Questions

But Pharaoh Hardened His Heart Again...

Moses went to Pharaoh time and again to convince him to let his people go. Each time Pharaoh "hardened his heart" and refused. In today's world, we think more about hardening of the arteries than the more spiritual affliction "hardening of the heart," but hardness of heart is still a common malady. Any time we "cast an idea in stone" or refuse to consider alternatives, we have hardened our heart. If we think we have the definitive answers and know the mind of God, we have hardened our heart. The cure for hardness of heart is humility. As we stand ready to have our heart broken by the love of God, we prepare ourselves to see things in new ways and to go in a new direction. Scripture calls this repentance. A repentant heart is always ready to see things in new ways, even when standing on conviction. -- Seth

Last Month's Question: How is the Church described in the Bible?

Answer: The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

This Month's Question: Why is the Church described as catholic?

A Four-Fold Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of +God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, +Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Savior, and the +Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide... be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore. AMEN

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from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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The Circuit Rider

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(continued from front page) The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, as well as to assist in the transition to being a productive citizen.

Through Bishop Kelshaw, a board member of Kairos of New Mexico, Felix Morgan, has invited all the people of the Diocese of the Rio Grande to attend the closing of Kairos #6. A "closing" is the final session of a Kairos weekend designed to let the participants know that "they are not alone." When people from the outside world show up at the closing, the participants see with their own eyes that people from outside **do care about them** and that they are **not alone!**

Anyone wishing to participate in this event will need to obtain an application form from the vicar and return it to the vicar by May 1st. Obtaining permission to attend is not complicated, and the rewards of participation are enormous for everyone involved.

Bishop Kelshaw writes, "I have been told that the prison population is the fastest growing community in the United States. If that is so, the Church is charged with a remarkable possibility for bringing the grace and love of God to a population that is faced with an ideal opportunity to live into that love and to find the grace for days that lie ahead."

For more information on Kairos, visit www.kairosprisonministry.org.
For more information on Cursillo, visit www.episcopalcurso.org/cursillo.html

Youth Club Hike

On Saturday, March 26th, Coach Cool (a.k.a. Seth), Reagan Reed, and Eric Renz took three members of the Big Bend Youth Club on an outing to Ernst Tinaja in the Big Bend National Park.



The trip was part of an ongoing effort to provide Youth Club members with positive learning experiences with adults in the community. Additional outings are being planned. Anyone is welcome to participate.



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