



# The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – October 2004

## Two Candidates for Bishop Added by Petition

The Episcopal Election is getting close. The Episcopal Discernment Committee has presented four candidates for Bishop Coadjutor to the Standing Committee. Two additional candidates have been nominated by petition. While the Discernment Committee nominees are all from outside the Diocese, the nominees submitted by petition are both from within the Diocese.



Colin Kelly

Big Bend Mission members will remember The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey N. Steenson who led our annual retreat a few years ago. "Jeffrey" is well loved by many people of all points of view in the diocese and has a reputation as a "peace maker." He currently serves as Canon to the Ordinary for Bishop Kelshaw. The other person nominated by petition is The Rev. Dr. Colin P. Kelly, III, who is currently Rector of Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos, New Mexico.



Jeffrey Steenson

The four nominees presented by the Discernment Committee are The Rev. Canon Brian Cox from California, The Rev. Dr. Ronald Jackson from California, The Rev. Martyn Minns from Virginia, and The Rev. Dr. Graham M. Smith from Illinois. Detailed information is available viewed at our diocesan web site, <http://riogrande.anglican.org>.



Brian Cox



Ronald Jackson



Martyn Minns



Graham Smith

Meetings with the candidates will be open to everyone to give an opportunity to get to know them. The meeting dates are October 7th, 6:30pm at Holy Faith, Santa Fe; October 8th, 6:30pm at St. Clements, El Paso; October 9th, noon at St. Andrew's, Roswell; and October 10th, 6:30pm at the Cathedral in Albuquerque. Voting delegates in the election from the Big Bend Mission are Judy Burgess, Charlotte Harris, Jack Murray, Greta Murray, Elaine Ponton, and Judy Probst. If you plan to attend the noon meeting in Roswell, please let the Vicar know so lunch arrangements can be made.

**The Episcopal Election will be on October 16th in Las Cruces, N.M.**  
Additional information at <http://riogrande.anglican.org>.

## Blessing of the Animals at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 2nd



Bring your dogs, cats, horses, birds, and other animal friends to St. Paul's on Saturday, October 2nd at 10:30am for a Blessing of the Animals. This grand occasion is always very popular, so be sure to bring leashes or carriers for your pets. The service will be informal, and you will be given an opportunity to introduce your pets.

*"Centuries ago, when people cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf."*

-author unknown  
from the *Joyful Noiseletter*

## Welcome Marina Azar

Marina Azar has been hired as organist in the Big Bend Mission. She will play primarily at St. Paul's, but she will fill in at St. James' when Deanna Bowling is away.



Marina is Belorussian (Belorussia is part of the old Soviet Union). She grew up in Potsdam, East Germany. She is an accomplished classical guitarist and plays regularly at the Holland Hotel in Alpine. She is a permanent resident and is working toward citizenship.

Many thanks to all who have given Marina support and encouragement as she takes on her new tasks. She has shown great courage in taking on unfamiliar instruments and unfamiliar music, while getting to know new orders of service and lots of new people all at once. Welcome, Marina! We're glad you're here.

**About 65 people attended the St. Paul's Ice Cream Social. Many thanks to everyone who made the event such a success.**



## Ken Whitley Pens *A Fire in the Place*



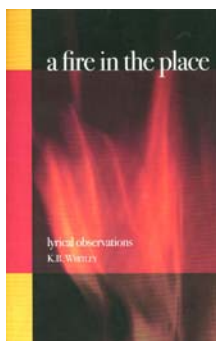
Ken Whitley, Marfa resident and St. Paul's member, has a new book. While most would say it is a book of poetry, Ken calls it "lyrical observations."

Even those who have trouble warming up to the fires of poetry will love this book. It is witty, engaging, and profound.

### Cow Hand

Ever shake  
Hands with  
A working  
Man, a cow  
Hand? S'like  
A pinion cone  
Or a corn cob  
Bone or the  
Clasp of a  
Rasp from a  
Carpenter's  
Task or an  
Armadillo's  
Tail. Hurts  
Like Hell.  
The crunch  
And the  
Scale will  
Make a cool  
Countenance  
Pale and a  
Howdy grin  
Turn grim  
As you try  
To hold your  
Own in the  
Grip of a  
Working man.

© Ken Whitley



Ken was born and raised in southwest Louisiana. He was raised on piney woods and Cajun rice. He writes because it "enables him." He considers it pure lagniappe if a line, a lyric, or a little story causes you to pause, think, and smile. His wife's name is Shere, and together they have two sons.

This collection is a "flicker of the writer's soul." Copies are available at the Marfa Book Company.

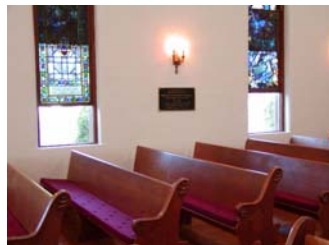
## U.T.O. Ingathering

It's time to count up those quarters and dimes you have been putting in your little blue box. A collection for the United Thank Offering will be held on Sunday, October 3rd. Make checks payable to the Big Bend Mission, mark them U.T.O., and put them in the regular collection plate. The U.T.O. supports projects in our diocese and around the world.



## Improvements Appearing at St. Paul's

Thanks to the challenge grant provided by Bob and Mary



Miller and the additional generosity of many members and friends, some needed changes are beginning to appear at St. Paul's. New screen doors have been installed all around, new track lighting is brightening up the parish hall, outdoor lights have been installed, a dedicated electrical circuit for the organ has been wired, and work has started on the windows in the church so that they open and let in fresh air. Additional projects are still in the works. Repainting of outside trim and improvements to the organ are next on the list.



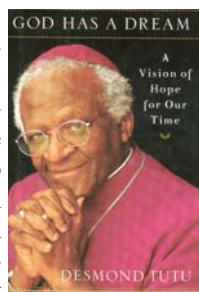
**Last Month's Question:** What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

**Answer:** Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**This Month's Question:** What is Prayer?

## St. James' Prayer Fellowship Starts New Book

The Prayer Fellowship at St. James' is set to begin a discussion of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's new book entitled *God Has A Dream*. The book issues an invitation to the reader to participate in God's dream - a dream wherein suffering and division are transformed into joy and reconciliation. In a review of the book, Jimmy Carter noted, "Archbishop Tutu offers a spiritual message that, if heeded, can change lives as well as history." Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin this new book. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Thelma Hoyle at 837-2088.



## Aurie and Gene West Celebrate 50 Years

On Wednesday, September 8, 2003, Aurie and Gene West celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at their house in Marfa. Congratulations, Aurie and Gene. Thanks for all you do for the Big Bend Mission. May you have many more years of happiness.



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"When it rained forty days and forty nights, was that during baseball season?"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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