

Trinity Tidings

From the Rector

Grace is an easy thing to ponder, but something difficult to put into practice. At least, it seems that way to me. Particularly when it comes to showing grace to myself. Here's my present reality: I'm a single father, pastoring a congregation during a pandemic, being a supplementary teacher to my son during remote education, and trying to find some space in there for rest. Here's what I tell myself: *You should be doing more.*

So many of us have had to make radical adjustments to our lives that we weren't really equipped to make. To be honest, I know I am simply unable to do all the above things as well as I could under normal circumstances. I've been shorter with my son on occasion, aspects of my job as a pastor have received less attention, and I am not practicing self-care the way I should. But that pernicious lie still finds a way to weasel into my mind: *You should be doing more.*

I'm guessing that many of you reading this can relate to the pressures of radically changed life, as well as the pressure to strive for perfection in the midst of it. Likewise, we have had to rely on one another in new ways, particularly in Church, and sometimes our expectations of what can be expected of one another haven't matched the present reality, which is that we are all dealing with levels of stress and anxiety that are unprecedented.

What, then, is grace in the midst of this strange time? I think it must first begin with recognizing that the best we can offer *now* may not look like the best we could offer *before*. So, when you make it to the end of the day and realize that you simply weren't your ordinary best self, don't let the voice of '*You should be doing more*' drown out the voice of Jesus Christ saying, "*You are enough. I am with you always.*"

Grace is also recognizing the same thing about others. To extend

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Temporary Worship Schedule

Weekly On-Line Services

Sunday

10:30a Rite II Choral Eucharist

Wednesday

12 noon: Healing Service

www.latoth.org/digitalworship

~ Come Worship With Us! ~

All are Welcome

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal

can be found at:

3900 Trinity Drive,

Los Alamos NM 87544

www.latoth.org

505-662-5107

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I am horrible at keeping in touch, I really am. I have good intentions but I just don't always follow through. However, that doesn't mean that I don't think about others or miss those whom I think about. Social media has made it a little bit better for me to see what my friends and family who live afar are up to and for them to keep up with me and my family. But reading posts on Facebook or Instagram is not the same as having a conversation with someone. It lacks the personal touch and the connection to others that I crave. I am also not a big fan of talking on the phone, I much prefer to meet in person. I tend to listen much better when I am having a face-to-face conversation and really gain insight from reading body language.



So this year as we have been faced with social distancing from friends and family we normally see on a regular basis, in addition to those whom we don't, keeping in touch has been particularly difficult for me. I long for the days when we can see each other every week at TOTH. There were also so many other occasions where I would see church friends throughout the week - at meetings, choir rehearsals, or out and about in town. I miss that. I miss it a lot. I was so grateful to see some of you at the outdoor Eucharist service on Saturday evening. The rain stopped just in time and it was so wonderful to gather together. I have to admit, I teared up a bit hearing everyone's voices recite the Nicene Creed. I miss those voices. I miss your voices. I miss our voices blended together as one.

So where do I turn when I need inspiration that things won't be like this forever? I certainly pray everyday but I also find motivation and hope in reading the Psalms. I love the Psalms and I usually just pick one at random and see what I am supposed to take away from it and focus on for the day. Today I opened to Psalm 51 and can hear the cantoring.

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from your presence,
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and uphold me with a willing spirit.

The Psalms provide me hope and I am hopeful that we will be able to worship together in person again soon in some fashion. There are a couple more outdoor Eucharist services planned over the next few weeks and I encourage you to attend if you can. The Vestry is also considering some other creative ways we can connect and keep in touch with one another. I do hope that I will see you all soon but if I don't, feel free to reach out to me. I'd love to hear how you all are doing and if you need anything I would love to help. I do miss my TOTH family.

Peace,
 Alison

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

The late John Prine said on a few occasions:

I got a friend in Fremont, He sells used cars, ya know
Well, he calls me up twice a year, Just to ask me how'd it go
"Pretty good, not bad, I can't complain, But actually everything
is just about the same"



You know how when you meet someone you have not seen in a while, they say "hey, how ya doowin"? It happens to me often, so my reply of choice is "not bad, it could be worse". You know, I actually believe, and in rarely other than most cases, this may be true for you as well. Don't ya think?

This seems to follow at our church. The building is under-utilized at present so we have not seen much in the way of need for repairs these recent months. The trees, bushes and weeds grew out of control for a few weeks but that concern has been reduced, please join me in offering a big thank you to the vegetation volunteers. A couple of weeks ago, on a Sunday morning, I noticed a leak in the irrigation system and found that it spills enough water to be of concern so I had to turn it off until we can get it fixed. We will need to cut back the cedar bushes by the south parking lot and do some digging but those bushes seem to grow pretty fast so they should cover the scar quickly. I would like to get this done soon. Keep an eye open for progress.

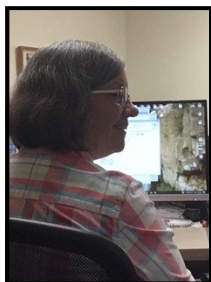
Pretty good, not bad, I can't complain. Well, not much anyway. Ya know, it could be worse. Like maybe having to shovel snow in September?

... Moonlight makes me dizzy
Sunlight makes me clean
Your light is the sweetest thing
That this boy has ever seen...

Look for more words of whizdumb from me next month if you like.

Mark Hartman,
Your Junior Warden

Building up God's Realm: Change is Afoot in TOTH Church Management



In the coming months, you will begin seeing reference to a new church management system (read: database) at TOTH. The new system is called “Realm” and it comes from the same company we currently use—ACS (Automated Church Systems). Realm will replace our old-style database called “OnDemand”, as well as what we call “MyTOTH” (Access ACS). The conversion will happen through a seamless transition. You may not even notice the switch.

Communications will Improve

What you will notice is that we will be able to consolidate how we communicate at TOTH.

We haven't used phone-trees much in the last 20 years, since e-mail became pervasive for mass communications. In the past decade, we have adopted the use of several different platforms: we send mass parish-wide or targeted group emails from distribution lists within the church's email program; in recent years, we have been sending our weekly “Tidbits” e-news via Constant Contact; we now post, rather than mail, the monthly “Tidings” newsletter to our website, www.latoth.org; and we use Facebook for a somewhat static “business page” as well as a very dynamic “group page.”

So, where have you been going to find the latest TOTH missive? Will it be in your e-mail or on Facebook, or should you go to the church website? Our communications have become very confusing. And this doesn't even include texting as an option.

Realm can consolidate all these forms of communication, so you only have to go to one place to see the latest news, cancelations, or links. We may still use Facebook for the page and the group, and we may still send an e-mail on occasion. But, when you need to know something quickly, it should be easier with Realm for you to get the information you need.

What else can Realm do?

We start with the existing database, which the company will convert into Realm. Eventually YOU will be able to get into your own profile on Realm and update your contact information, like changes to your cell phone number or e-mail address. You'll be able to replace your 2011 Church Directory or other profile photo with your latest, best selfie. If you serve on a Ministry team or in a choir, you and your group leader will be able to communicate through Realm directly with your group, without the office e-blasting the whole congregation with the group's latest news.

Each TOTH group will be able to use Realm like a social media platform to inspire conversation with their members. Group leaders can post their ministry photos and resources, meeting announcements and minutes in one place, where group members can easily access them. Sunday school teachers and youth directors can keep accurate lists of their kids and communicate with them directly through Realm, while the office will be able to see those up-to-date lists without always asking teachers and leaders for them. Instead of a myriad of software options, where all leaders and staff use their favorite software products, we would all be on the same page with just this one platform and source.

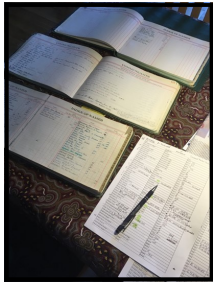
Safe Child Precautions

One built-in safety precaution in Realm is that any communication sent to a person under age 18 is automatically copied to the parent of that child. This works well with our Safe Child policy at TOTH; no-one can use Realm to communicate with your child without you seeing what they wrote. Once the child reaches 18, the office can change his/her status from “Child” to “Other” in the Realm household, so this duplication of communication will no longer happen automatically.

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Another updated feature, for parents with joint custody, is that a “Child” can be now be in two database households; in this way, those children aren’t duplicated in the database, as before, but will show up as members of both households.

Things Learned from TOTH Register Books



The Original TOTH Register book starts with marriages, baptisms and burials in 1944, when Los Alamos was still under government management as the Manhattan Project. The Rev. C. J. Kinsolving came up the Hill from Holy Faith in Santa Fe to offer services. Chaplain Matthew H. Imrie presided over the Register book’s first 19 marriages, 35 baptisms, and two burials (of stillborn infants), from August 1944 to May 1946. Those numbers tell us something about the youthfulness of this town in those formative years.

The Original Register book notes, in both Kinsolving’s and Borell’s handwriting, the following bit of Episcopal history in Los Alamos:

The first service by an Episcopal clergyman was held by the Rev. C. J. Kinsolving, III, Rector of the Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe, N.M., in the early stages of the organization of the Project. These services, sponsored by the Santa Fe Ministerial Alliance, were interdenominational in character. However, several Celebrations of Holy Communion were held when Mr. Kinsolving was on the Hill. The first Chaplain assigned to the Project, Capt. Matthew Imrie, who was at this Post from the Spring of 1944 to August of 1946, was a Priest of the Church. Upon his transfer arrangements were made for Mr. Kinsolving to hold a monthly Communion Service at the Project.

The first resident Episcopal clergyman was the Rev. Eldon W. Borell, who left Ramsey, N.J., March 20, 1950, to become Vicar of Trinity-on-the-Hill, Los Alamos; St. James, Taos; and St. Stephens, Espanola. On Feb. 3, 1951, he was appointed Archdeacon of Southwest New Mexico and left March 5, 1951 to live in Deming, New Mexico.

The second register book of Marriages (1958-1967) and burials (1979-1992) contains this list of the Rectors of the Parish of TOTH:

Kenneth K. Shook	(helped out as early as 1946) -- Feb. 1958
William C. Frey	June 15, 1958 – June 30, 1962
William H. Wolfrum	September 1962 – August 1969
Milton Alan Rohane	January 1969 – (his burial) Nov. 1984

To this list I added:

Colin P. Kelly, III	1985/86 – June 2013
Christopher M. Adams	July 2015 –

Other clergy served alongside these Rectors, as did many seminarians. Some research will be needed to pull all of their names and dates into a list, perhaps using the Parochial Reports on file at TOTH.

A Finance Module

Realm comes with a Finance module as well, so our Bookkeeper will have an easier time of it.

Have you tried to find your contributions record through MyTOTH? This will be even easier on Realm. You will be able to print your own giving statement, and security is guaranteed: no one else will be able to see what you have given to or through TOTH.

For Vestry and Finance Committee members, there will be colorful graphs of congregational income and

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expenditures. Chris will be able to see, for his planning purposes, an overview of the financial health or membership numbers of the parish, but not individual contribution records.

Parish Directory Made Accessible

With Realm, we can get our own copy of the parish directory anytime we want. And with each of us keeping our own profile up to date, those directories are bound to be more accurate. As a parent with children in college who move to a new address each year, you can update their contact info for the directory by going into Realm, or asking the Realm Admin to do it.

“MyTOTH” will seamlessly become “RealmConnect”. If you have been using MyTOTH, you will receive a message to just log back in with Realm Connect and you’ll be good to go. From there, “active” participants of TOTH who are in our system will be able to find other TOTH members’ profiles and contact them directly—just like the MyChurch phone app version of MyTOTH, Here’s something really cool!... RealmConnect can be downloaded as an app on your smart phone, so you can do all of the above using only your phone.

There are many other features of Realm that we will learn about once we are in it. Rest assured, TOTH will ease into Realm one step at a time, ever so gently, until we can get the most out of its features to build a stronger TOTH Community. Other features, like event registration and check-in kiosks may not be of use to TOTH, but we can grow into what we do need as we need it from Realm.

Preparing for Realm

Throughout these months of working from home, your Parish Administrator has been taking Realm’s online training sessions (of which there are many), participating in webinars for Realm best practices, and imagining how best to use this tool for TOTH’s purposes. She has begun to draft, after consultation with Fr. Chris, a policy and procedures for how TOTH will use and manage Realm.

In preparation for the conversion to Realm, the Parish Administrator has been “cleaning up” the existing database so that what goes over to Realm is as accurate as possible. Our database works with an individual profile for each person (linked with other household members or related households like grandparents), with contact information, significant dates such as baptism and confirmation, groups and activities, licenses for LEMs, and background check approvals for those who work with kids, as well as a profile photo. For example, whether or not you get a birthday or anniversary card from Chris, or if your special day is mentioned in the prayers on a Sunday, depends on how we have it marked in the database and whether those dates are entered on your profile. The system is already very robust; Realm will only make it more accessible and flexible for ministry.



One of the most enjoyable pieces of this database project for our Parish Admin has been to pore over the entries in the twelve historic TOTH Register Books, where we have recorded baptisms, confirmations, communicants joining the church, marriages and burials, since 1944. She has been making sure all entries are noted in the index of the book in which they are recorded. She has also been correlating entries since the ‘90s with those in our current database, which was first established on computer in that decade. Correlating the register books with the database will mean we have double-checked all database profiles for accuracy before the Realm conversion.

While we never have perfection in the church office, we will have much more confidence in our record keeping after all this is done! Now we will look to partner with all TOTH households in keeping our records and contact information up to date.

Occasionally, we receive requests for records from descendants of former TOTH members doing family

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research. With the register books, we are able to photocopy the appropriate page of that baptism or marriage and send it to them.

The Diocese of the Rio Grande also keeps archives from the parishes. Once each index is up to date in each of the older register books, we can share them with the DRG archiving project which will digitize the records and send the books back to us.

In Conclusion

In the coming months, you will see reference to Realm as it is adopted by the various ministries at TOTH. Eventually, you will receive an invitation to log into Realm and view your own profile to update it and your portrait photo. Within months, TOTH will be able to centralize communications and resources so you can find everything you and your ministry need in one place.

Together we can build up God's Realm through the ministries of our church parish!

Cynthia Biddlecomb, Parish Administrator

From the Editor:

Dear TOTH friends,

Some astute readers will have noticed that *Trinity Tidings* was not published in August. Since the July issue came out fairly late into the month of July and since there is usually a double issue in the summer, I took my break from the *Trinity Tidings* in August.

It has probably been a different kind of summer for many of us. I have missed my annual summer trip to the UK and I expect many of you have also had to postpone visits to relatives, to the beach, or just anywhere out of town! I am still very grateful to live somewhere so beautiful and to be able to enjoy the blue skies and mountain views of our town.

I am really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the outdoor eucharists being held in September and October. I wonder if I can go to more than one.....?

Enjoy all the beautiful photographs in this issue!

Best wishes to all my TOTH friends,
Claire

Trinity Tidings

A newsletter of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

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Calendars and schedules: Cynthia Biddlecomb and
Claire Singleton

Distribution: Online publication only this month.

Trinity on the Hill's Mission

*The Mission of Trinity on the Hill is to share the power and joy of
God's love, to fully embrace all God's children,
and to respond to the needs of our community
and the world in the spirit of Jesus Christ*



**The next regularly scheduled issue will
be October. Submission deadline is COB
Friday, September 25, 2020.**

Submit electronically to: cmws4377@gmail.com or
cynthiab@latoth.org

HOUSE OF HOPE UPDATE

House of Hope Building Team Thank You!

Thank you to all our supporters during our fund-raising efforts this summer. During a pandemic, the ministry needed to get creative! And our Vestry approved! Our **yard sales** were successful, as was the **Tea To Go-Go!** The two events combined have raised 58% of the funds needed to reach our goal of \$12,000. We appreciate your continued support so that our mission work of building homes in Mexico may continue. Together we have the power to create change for a family and their community.

Our House of Hope ministry goal is to build a house, or to offer the funds to build a house if we are unable to go in person. Most importantly, this mission work is about connecting with communities, either locally or in Mexico, and sharing the love of Christ. The yard sales and the tea both surprisingly gave our TOTH team the opportunities to connect with our communities during this time of isolation. With many friends and neighbors contributing to the yard sales or supporting the tea it was an opportunity to share our mission work stories.

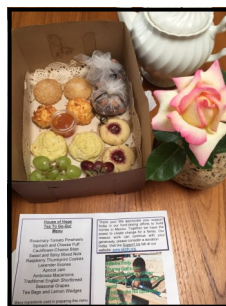
During my yard sale, I prayed with one shopper and another shopper prayed with me, asking for a blessing on our work. These events are an opportunity to invite people to join us in worship virtually or in the future in person. #WeAreTrinity!

Stay tuned for future fund-raising events!

Beth Pattillo



Tea to Go-Go photo credits:
Lynn Finnegan, Ben Schilling,
Scott Schilling, Karen Humphrey,
Rozelle Wright, Karen Ingraham,
Kathy Gursky.
(More photos next page)

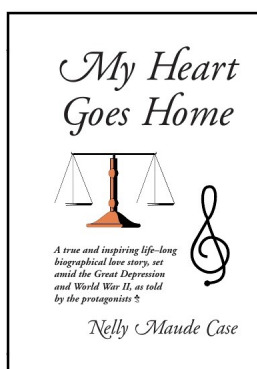


Tea to Go-Go photos, cont.

Photos: Claudia Brookshire



“My Heart Goes Home” by Nelly Case, TOTH Choirmaster



My Heart Goes Home: a true and inspiring biographical love story set amid the Great Depression and World War II, as told by the protagonists, John Persinger Case and Althea Kay, parents of TOTH Chancel Choirmaster, Nelly Case. In cleaning out the family home in Ohio for sale in 2018, she came upon numerous diaries written by her mother from the 1920s to the 1940s and heaps of letters written by her father (an officer in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps) to her mother that altogether revealed a remarkable romance that their baby-boomer children had only guessed at. This 200-page paperback, with many historical photos, is available on demand for \$20 at www.lulu.com.

For the record—summer 2020*Joined in Holy Matrimony*

May 10, 2020 -- Debora Gage and Gregory Wagner

July 20, 2020 -- Rebecca Holmes and Benigno Sandoval

August 15, 2020 -- Michelle Carr and Chris Yeager

Birth

July 26, 2020—Clara Evelyn Clark, daughter of Alex and Shelley



Women Alive in Mind, Body and Spirit held an outdoor breakfast meeting in Karen Humphrey's yard on September 1.
Photos: Rozelle Wright and Claire Singleton



Mountain Chickadee



Hoary Comma



McGillivray's Warbler



Cherie Hale and Rozelle Wright helped Patricia Wing celebrate her pre-birthday in the Hales' yard, joined by a McGillivray's Warbler.

Rozelle and Brad hiked in Hidden Canyon at the Valle Caldera.
All photos: Rozelle Wright.

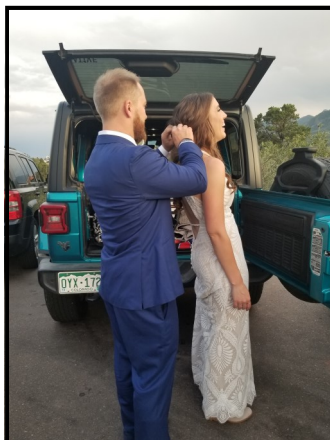
LOVE IN A TIME OF COVID



Rebecca Holmes and Benigno Sandoval were married in the TOTH sanctuary on Monday, July 20, at 8 o'clock in the evening



Announcing the Carr-Yeager family. Father Chris united Michelle Carr from Mill Valley, California, and Chris Yeager from Basin, Wyoming, in a lifelong commitment on August 15 at the Valles Caldera. In attendance were their five children: Malcolm, Charlotte, and Sasha Carr and Gus and Lucas Yeager. Maggie and Leni Moore were the witnesses, Anna Moore was the beautiful flower girl, and Josh Moore was the crucifer. Because of the pandemic, Michelle's and Chris's families were unable to attend and the wedding reception has been postponed, with a date to be announced. (Photos: Karen Proctor)



Susan Sprake's son, **Casey**, married **Kristyne** on August 1 at the Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, CO.

LOVE IN A TIME OF COVID, cont.



During a surprise visit to New Mexico, **Andrew Fassbender and Rachel Dickens** became engaged on August 25. Their friendship began 16 years ago in their high school German class, where they bonded over a pair of shoes. Even as Rachel's nursing career took her from Albuquerque to Africa and Andrew's ballet career took him from Tulsa to New York City, they remained best friends. Andrew and Rachel embarked on a long distance relationship in April and are now busy planning their wedding, which will (hopefully) take place in October 2021.

Clara Evelyn Clark was born on July 26, 2020, at 1:08 pm, and weighed 7 lbs 8 oz. Her proud parents are Alex and Shelley Clark.



THANKS from LAPS: Shop on the Corner was able to donate 10 boxes of school supplies to the Los Alamos Public Schools for students who are lacking resources. School Counselor Jennifer Neil expresses her thanks to all at TOTH who donated!!

CALENDARS (AND MORE!) FOR PRISON MINISTRY

Janet Hall from the United Church has reminded us that she is continuing to collect Bibles, religious books, calendars, greeting cards, and notepads for prison ministry. As you receive these in the charitable solicitations many of us receive in the mail, please consider recycling them into the box outside the church office. Thank you for sharing!

OUTDOOR EUCHARIST



About 30 TOTH members gathered on September 5 in Ben Schilling's beautiful back yard. Two more outdoor eucharists will be held soon: September 19 and October 3 at 6 pm. Sign up now (at www.latoth.org) if you would like to attend. (photos: Jeff Favorite and Claire Singleton)



grace to our friends and neighbors is to recognize that they, too, may not be their usual best selves. Frustration, anger, resentments...these things are fellow companions with the stress that is so pervasive in our society. A meditation I read yesterday ended with, "Just for today, can I lead the way with kindness and let the day unfold as it will?" I wonder what would happen if we substituted grace for kindness, letting the grace of Jesus Christ lead the way for us. We aren't committing to perfection, as we've already recognized that is an antagonist to grace. But we are asking that Jesus Christ, and his grace, fill us this day, leading and guiding our interactions, helping us to be the best version of ourselves that we can be in the midst of this current climate of fear, anxiety, and stress. Perhaps an easy way to adapt this principle is by asking yourself at the end of each day, "Where have I done good? Where have I done harm? Where have I seen God?" Maybe focus a little on our victories, our growing edges, and the presence of God that fills all things, including our messed-up calendars and frustrated routines. Grace abounds, friends. Don't let any other voices tell you otherwise, including the voice that often speaks the loudest...your own.

Chris⁺



Remaining Connected in a Digital Age

Let's get something straight: Screen-Time Burnout is a real thing. But it's the safest way to stay connected, so let's use it to the best of our ability.

Here are the means by which you can stay connected digitally while we are remaining socially distant:

Tuesdays:

- Zoom Women Alive: **8am**, link sent out via email (for all women in the parish; contact lynnfinnegan1475@gmail.com for information)
- Zoom Coffee Hour: **10am**, link sent out via email (contact cynthiab@latoth.org for more information)

Wednesdays:

- A Healing Service: **Noon**, www.facebook.com/trinityoth
- Zoom Chime Choir: **5:30pm**, link sent out via email (for all families with young children; contact momto3ducks@gmail.com for more information)

Thursdays:

- Sipping Tea with Two Lonely Pastors: **7pm**, www.facebook.com/sippingteawithtwolonelypastors

Fridays:

- Zoom Bible Study: **2pm**, link sent out via email (contact cynthiab@latoth.org for more information)

Sundays:

- A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist: **10:30am**, www.facebook.com/trinityoth
- Google Hangout Youth Group: **6:30pm**, link sent out via email. (contact kfave@cybermesa.com for more information)