

Trinity Tidings

From the Rector

Confession: I don't like Ash Wednesday. Not because I don't like remembering my mortality (I actually *do* like that!), but because Ash Wednesdays of years past have some painful memories attached to them. It may not be Ash Wednesday for you, but I imagine there are some days of the year that you would rather just skip over for fear of having to face your own painful specters.

And yet we can never escape the past. We can't escape the things that we have done nor the things done to us. We carry our history within us at all times. We can, however, refuse to allow the past to dictate our future.

That's what Ash Wednesday and Lent are about. Admitting to the pains of our existence, admitting the ways in which we have failed the human family, and yet finding a way through such things. The Ash Wednesday Liturgy is a perfect analogy for this process. We admit our sinfulness, face our mortality, yet even still we are invited to feast at the Eucharistic table of Jesus Christ.

We will shortly be embarking together on a Lenten journey of introspection and brutal honesty. That is, if we choose to engage in such behavior. Lent could just be a season in which you give up chocolate until Easter. But it could be so much more.

We are invited to give ourselves over to a rhythm of life we don't always like to engage in. But if we choose to embrace all that Lent has to offer, I promise you that you will come out transformed on the other side.

Peace,
Chris

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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 still recovering from the side effects of my 2nd COVID vaccination and now I am your new Senior Warden – and February is just beginning!

First, let me say thanks to the Rector and the rest of the Vestry for trusting me with this job and second, thanks to the TOTH congregation for voting me on to the Vestry in February, 2020. Little did any of us know how crazy the past year would be.

It is too soon to know what changes 2021 will bring, but I do know that for the immediate future we will not be able to worship together in the TOTH sanctuary. I mourn that loss of community as much as all of you, but thanks be to God that He sent us Fr. Christopher Adams, Michelangelo Lobato, Valerie Fassbender and Nelly Case to lead our virtual worship services. While we are all doing everything we can to stay safe so Los Alamos will remain “yellow” or even move to “green,” I promise you the Vestry will be keeping a close eye on the state guidelines for indoor gatherings. As weather permits, we will also be assisting Fr. Chris in finding other creative worship options.

As we approach the season of Lent, I commend to you the Lenten Devotional booklet, written by members of a variety of Los Alamos churches, and compiled and produced by our own Cynthia Biddlecomb. Thanks, Cynthia. I pray we may all experience a holy Lent, followed by a glorious Easter season.

If there is anything that I, as Senior Warden, can do to answer questions about what is happening at TOTH over the next year, please feel free to call or text me at (505) 629-9657 or email me at meodell18@gmail.com. As for me, I will be learning about my new role and relying on my favorite Bible verse: “Be still and know that I am God.” (Ps. 46:10)

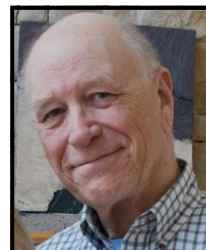
Margaret Odell, Senior Warden

FROM THE CO-JUNIOR WARDENS

Greetings and virtual hugs to all of you! Lisa Rothrock and Paul Lisowski are honored to be your, not one, but two new Co-Junior Wardens! Yes, our Vestry strives to be unique, as well as dedicated. We are most anxious to get together with the previous Junior Warden, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, etc., and see exactly what we've gotten ourselves into. We have huge shoes to fill and hope to have more news to share in the very near future.



Lisa and Paul



FROM THE OUTGOING SENIOR WARDEN

Wow, what a year! I am pretty sure no one anticipated 2020 to be what it turned out to be. I certainly never thought we would still be in the situation we are with social distancing, wearing masks and not meeting in person. It has been a really rough year for most if not all of us. Despite all of these hurdles, I am also amazed at everything we as a parish were able to accomplish. We had a wonderful Vestry and continued to meet regularly via Zoom throughout the year. It was definitely harder to connect with one another over the computer screens but we were still able to share our struggles and successes with one another while addressing some of the business aspects of the church. I appreciate each and everyone of you and wish you well as a new Vestry comes together later this month!



In March we had to pivot quickly and were able to digitally live-stream our Sunday Worship Services. This took a lot of flexibility not only from the clergy but also from everyone else involved, including some of our lay persons. We have also regularly held a Public Service of Healing, a Zoom Coffee Hour, and a Zoom Bible Study. The worship services continued with beautiful music offered by our organist and choirmaster, and our choir has really stepped up to offer digital anthems. Christian Formation classes have also been offered over Zoom.

There were a few highlights for me this year at TOTH, such as the Christmas Eve Montage Spectacular. I know it took an enormous amount of work to put it together and it was so enjoyable. I had fun taking part in the virtual Christmas Caroling and I was so grateful to sing! The outdoor Eucharists that we held in early fall were so fulfilling. It was a spiritual experience to be present with one another again. Participating in the Anti-racism Group with my daughter, Jordan, has been an enriching and learning experience.

I hope that going forward we can bring back some of the familiar events that we look forward to each year as well as perhaps keeping some of the new, creative ways to share the power and joy of God's love. We were blessed to have Jill Cline, our Seminarian, continue with us this year and I look forward to continuing to be a part of her spiritual journey.

God's love continues to shine through.

I have to admit, I did not do as much as I hoped to as Senior Warden for TOTH this year but I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our parish. I look forward to worshipping with you all in person again soon!

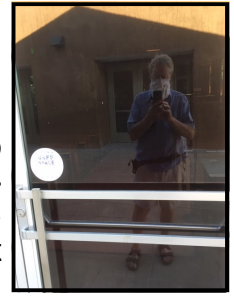
Respectfully submitted,

Alison Bailey

FROM THE OUTGOING JUNIOR WARDEN

The Year of living under water

Hello Again. I have missed you. While you all were away, safely separated and socially dissed, our beloved church stood firm, as an edifice or a testament to our history past and, with faith, to our future. My belief is that this minimally social life will continue yet for some time but I look forward to the day when we can resume some of what we once knew and loved about gathering in person at our church.



In 2020, social activities were diminished but as for the physical aspect of the building and grounds, our church required somewhat less than usual of the day-to-day maintenance, being under utilized for nine months. Nonetheless, trees, shrubs, flowers, and grass continue as if oblivious to the changes in our human lives. Relating to that, I offer an immense thank you to those who gave of their time over many hours helping to keep the flora under control and hauling away the excess. Our church property will need similar amounts of volunteerism in the year ahead so thank you for your service should you hear the call once again.

Low incidence of calamity aside, we did have two water spill events of note. The earlier event pertained to the irrigation system but it was outside so there is no lasting evidence of property damage, although further repair may be needed in the spring. The later event, which happened in early December, was more significant since it took place inside the building. Work on the Remediation and Restoration is well under way and should be complete in a few more weeks.

Most of the days that I walk the grounds there is little or nothing amiss and it becomes a rather solitary exercise. Such was also a Saturday evening early in December when I stopped by, but late the next day I got a call from Father Chris saying there was a lot of water accumulating downstairs in Shop on the Corner. Since he was already on site I was able to direct him to the main water shut-off during the telephone conversation while I got ready to go over and determine the next steps. It was a mess, far more so than the Kelly Hall Bean Sprout Wars you may have heard about. For several hours that evening Father Chris, Julia and Jude worked, picking up water in the “Shop” while I was upstairs in the KH kitchen soaking up the puddle that had covered most of the floor. Unfortunately, the water flow lasted long enough to do some damage before it was halted, so we will look to our insurance company to help pay for the repair work. We have had plumbing repair work completed and after some recent testing and inspection, I believe that this will not happen again in the near future.

Well, that was that. How about a visit to the Old Same place? The “TOTH Church Elder Broken Hip Prevention Ministry Snow Shoveling Commitments list of 2020 – 2021” has a place for you. Anyone who has some spare time or willingness to serve would be welcome to offer up, sign up, and show up.

As a last word, this year the church annual meeting will end my latest tenure as your Junior Warden. I love you all and have loved every minute of serving you and our church. Perhaps we could do it again sometime. I hope you won’t miss me if I am gone.

Mark Hartman

2020 Junior Warden

HOUSE OF HOPE NEWS

Lynn Finnegan

Thank you to all who supported this ministry in 2020 by coming to our Tea to Go-Go and buying (and baking!) cookies for Christmas Cookies to Go-Go! Our team also held several garage and yard sales and many of you also made additional donations.



Through these new fundraisers, we were able to raise awareness in our Los Alamos community about the ongoing hardship in Juárez, Mexico, which has been severely impacted by the pandemic and the inability of many housebuilding teams to travel there. People who had not previously (or would not) attend our Tea and Fashion Show enjoyed picking up a delicious treat and tea box to go, and many took advantage of our free delivery to send boxes to friends. The cookies were a big success and, thanks to all you bakers, we were able to donate a few boxes to the fire stations and police department.

In a year when it would have been easy to step back and say, “it can’t be done,” or “it’s too complicated,” the House of Hope team instead worked creatively and had a lot of fun in the process!

We now believe have enough money to build our next home. Our 2021 trip, originally scheduled for March, has now been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 10 – Saturday, November 13. Mark your calendars! We encourage and welcome anyone interested in life-changing short-term mission work. The new trip dates include Veterans Day so teens and working adults need only miss two days of work/school.



The need in Juárez only increased with Covid-19. The House of Hope team will continue fundraising this year for future builds and additional needs in the *colonias* identified by our mission partners, Missions Ministries. To donate, please designate a PayPal, account transfer, or check to TOTH, House of Hope. To learn more about getting involved contact George Marsden, george_marsden@mac.com.

(Photos from previous house-builds courtesy of Lynn Finnegan)



FEAST DAY FOR THE PUEBLO DE SAN ILDEFONSO

The San Ildefonso Pueblo Governor and officials decided that no feast activities were to be held in January 2021, due to the ongoing pandemic. As our annual Feast Day for the Pueblo de San Ildefonso approached, we found ourselves seeking out different ways to celebrate our patron Saint Ildefonso. With this in mind, we looked for alternatives. Thanks to the buzz of our modern technology, aspects of addressing our people during the feast were presented by our tribal leaders via Facebook. On the aspect of church activities of our beloved Saint Ildefonso, the church officials in place looked to have a church service held via Facebook. The head official, Leon Roybal, along with his fellow officials, reached out to Father Chris to host such a service, which was held on January 23. For this I am so grateful and honored he said “yes” to the request. May this outreach be a comfort and blessings to all within our communities.

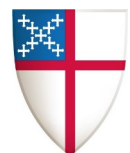
Renee Roybal

(photos: Karen Humphrey)



For the record: December 2020—January 2021

Chris Adams and Julia Concha were married in the TOTH courtyard on January 30, 2021.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RESULTS and ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Thanks to all who contributed to the Souper Bowl offering - especially the generous donor who sent a \$1000 check a couple of weeks before the big day!! I was able to tell Rosmarie Frederickson the happy news the day after Cynthia told me of its arrival since Rose was swimming in the lane next to me. Rose is on the LA Cares Board of Directors and was of course delighted! She told me they are in great need now since the two 2020 Postal Workers' Food Drives were canceled. They will be very pleased when they receive our check for \$1608, the total of our offering! We also received 112 food items on Souper Bowl Sunday. Incidentally, food donations may always be left in the TOTH hall cabinets just outside the office.

Another organization that has reached out to us is **Mesa to Mesa**. Their mission is to bring people together to improve the health, safety and security of low-income homeowners in Northern New Mexico by performing minor repairs to their homes, facilitating larger repairs by means of referrals and collaborations, and providing home maintenance education. Since the pandemic started they have focused on outdoor projects. They have received several generous grants and have been able to assist many individuals and families with utility payments, which also keeps people in their homes.

Mesa to Mesa is seeking volunteers for outdoor repairs and yard work assistance. Examples of projects are step and ramp installations, door and window repair and replacement, and mobile home skirting repair and installation. If you are interested and have some time to spare to help our neighbors up north, please get in touch:

505-927-2105 or inez@mesatomesa.org. The Executive Director is Inez Liebman.

Also check out their web site: www.mesatomesa.org

Thank you for caring!

Cathy Walters

From the Editor:

Dear friends,

The last time I wrote to you was during Advent. Time flies! Now we are approaching Lent (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17) and I hope you will remember to pick up your Lenten Devotional booklet from outside Kelly Hall. I am always amazed and inspired by the contributions from our parishioners and our neighboring churches in Los Alamos.

As of this writing, we have just held our virtual Annual Meeting and elected new Vestry members. You will find contributions from our outgoing and incoming Senior and Junior Wardens in this issue. I wish all new Vestry members well and thank those who have just stepped down.

Happy spring and a blessed Lent to Trinity Tidings readers.

Best wishes,

Claire

Trinity Tidings

A newsletter of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

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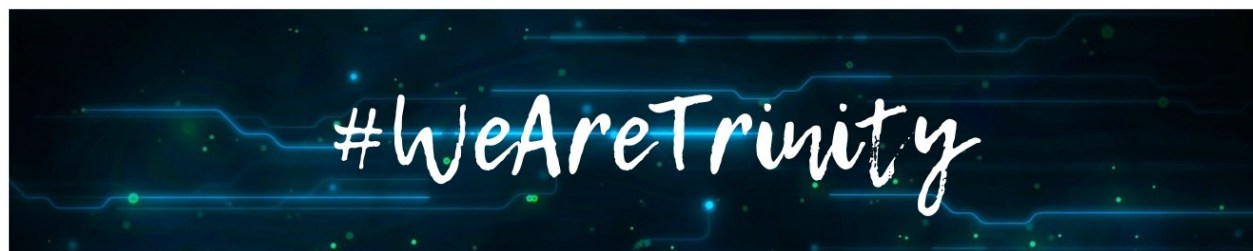
Trinity on the Hill's Mission

*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
in March. Submission deadline Friday,
March 5.**

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



Remaining Connected during COVID-19

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. Knowing this, however, we have expanded some in-person offerings for those who desire.

Here are the means by which you can stay connected either physically or 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); once a month there is a Socially-Distanced Hike.
- 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)

Fridays:

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

Sundays:

- A Celebration of Holy Eucharist, in person: **8am**, RSVP required. Visit www.latoth.org to RSVP
- A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, digital: **10:30am**, www.facebook.com/trinityoth
- Christian Education: **12:15**, via Zoom, link will be emailed
- Youth Group: contact kfave@cybermesa.com for more information on meeting times and formats