

Trinity Tidings

From the Rector

I somehow missed the memo that it's been exactly one year since the first COVID-19 lockdown occurred here in New Mexico. I knew it was right around this time, but I missed the date. It's amazing to think about the events of the last year. Let us first pause and remember those who have died because of COVID-19. More than anything, especially more than the inconveniences that have come upon us, the lives lost have impacted our world in profound ways. I hear so many of us imaging what the new normal will be like, but for so many others, the new normal will be living with the absence of a loved one.

For me, the most important question is not what the Church will look like in this new normal, but what role with the Church have in the necessary healing for so many in our communities. It is easy to become numb to the tragedies around us, but I believe the way of Jesus pushes us to more profoundly embrace the tragedy and pain of the world, for in the basic human response of empathy, the love of God is made known.

The Church can be like a medical field house right in the midst of the pain, seeking out those who are hurting, binding up the broken hearted, sitting shiva if you will with those who have suffered the most during the last year.

As we continue to move through Lent, let us not forget that Lent is not only about setting things aside, but about picking things up. I encourage you to take up the call to bind up the broken hearted as a Lenten discipline. How is Christ compelling you to offer a healing presence to those you interact with? Never forget that Christ has no body but yours, no hands or feet but yours. May you embrace this profound truth.

Peace,

Chris

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Temporary Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

**8 am: Rite II In-person
Eucharist**

(reservation required)

**10:30 am Rite II On-line Choral
Eucharist**

Wednesday

12 noon: Healing Service

**Trinity on the Hill Episcopal
can be found at:**

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THOUGHTS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



As I sit down to write, it has almost been exactly one year since I last worshipped in the sanctuary at Trinity on the Hill. At the beginning of March, 2020, I had been on the Vestry for one month and was looking forward to getting to know each member more personally. Alas, that was not to be. Now here we are a year later with a brand-new Vestry, Los Alamos in the green, and limited in-person services are resuming.

I know that many people are looking to return to the world of March, 2020, but I am excited to consider lessons from the past year and look to the future. We as a congregation learned that worship could continue thanks to modern technology and the skills of Fr. Chris, Michelangelo Lobato, and many others. We learned that moments close to the Lord can happen in our living rooms and kitchens, with a cup of tea and in our favorite PJs. Our lay readers learned that it only requires 5 or 10 “takes” to get our recorded messages exactly right. And we learned that our church family continues to be strong and faithful, despite the lack of in-person singing and hugs.

How can we assimilate these lessons and apply them to 2021 and beyond? We can carefully return to gathering in the sanctuary at 8 am on Sundays. It feels a bit odd to RSVP for church (www.latoth.org/rsvpforworship), but it is the responsible first step to returning to our beloved church building in this COVID world. We currently can have 30 people in the sanctuary at any one time – appropriately masked and socially distanced. If we find there is a demand from more than 30 parishioners to worship in person, who knows, perhaps additional live services? (No promises, just a thought!) However, one thing we learned in 2020 is that many parishioners also greatly value the accessibility of the on-line services, so Fr. Chris and the Vestry have pledged to continue these, even after the pandemic.

As I am anticipating a return to in-person worship and the re-opening of church spaces for small gatherings, I need to remind myself our comfortable, casual world has changed, most likely permanently. What has not changed though is Christ’s love and faithfulness. This past year has been unprecedented and sad in terms of the number of lives lost, but it also has been unprecedented in the number of people who have stepped up to take care of neighbors (thank you ladies – you know who you are), to teach children through virtual lessons, and to reach out to strangers in need. I also suspect that for many of us, myself included, Christ has become an even more personal comforting presence through resources like Morning and Evening Prayer, *Forward Day by Day*, and our ecumenical Lenten devotional booklet.

As Senior Warden, I am anxious to see Trinity on the Hill continue its important ministries, both to our own parishioners and to those in the larger community, but we need to do so intelligently and with an eye to the science. We need to participate in vaccinations and continue to be cautious about public gatherings. I am sure there will be many pronouncements from state, national and diocesan authorities about the extent to which our society can “reopen.” I hope that our congregation will also be trusting in the Lord to show us the way to move forward. Please pray for your Vestry as we move through these last weeks of Lent and on into the dawn of a glorious Easter season. You will all certainly be in my prayers. May God richly bless you!

Margaret Odell. Senior Warden

FROM THE CO-JUNIOR WARDENS



What have we (“we” being Lisa and Paul) learned since becoming Junior Wardens? First, it was amazing to see how much effort it takes from so many hard-working people to keep TOTH running seamlessly. We received an in-depth, eye-opening tour from Brad Wright of much of the nitty gritty that constitutes the maintenance of our building and grounds. For example, did you know that the organ was built before the new heating system was installed? The organ bellows system couldn’t be moved, so the heating ducts had to encompass it! Or that the fire protection system, testing with the Fire Department, alarm settings, etc., are all the purview of Brad Wright (and now Leni Moore, as well—thank you both!)?

We will be having a walk-through with Mark Hartman next, hopefully before the end of March, where we will be blessed to see yet another aspect of his seamless but wonderful, behind-the-scenes functions. In advance, thank you, Mark! You were an amazing Junior Warden and we greatly appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for this church on a regular basis. Richard Triplett also works behind the scenes and with Mark. Thank you, Richard, and all those we may have missed!

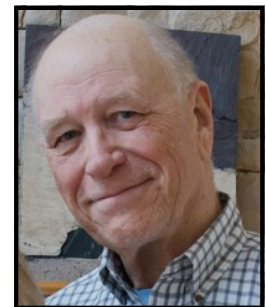
Ah, the meetings! We have attended the Deanery meeting, the Finance Committee meeting, and the Vestry meetings, as well as extra meetings as they occur. Who woulda thunk? We are still learning what all this job entails!

Working with Cynthia has been another joy! She is amazing at following up on our questions and figuring out puzzles, such as how to get signature cards from Enterprise so that we as Junior Wardens can become authorized signers for checks. It’s not a simple process at all, and she has been navigating all of the appropriate players through it with ease.

All in all, it has been a most interesting month of discovery! We are excited to work with such dedicated people who have this parish’s best interests at heart. It is a true blessing.

Faithfully yours,

Lisa Rothrock and Paul Lisowski



UNITED THANK OFFERING TO RETURN IN 2021!

Cathy Walters

I hope many of you have missed our long-standing tradition of participating in the Episcopal Outreach Ministry of UTO. Watch for news of a revival in the next issue of *Trinity Tidings*. Meanwhile, you are most welcome to pick up a little blue box, either outside Kelly Hall or just inside the door near the Chapel. Enjoy this article from the National Episcopal Church UTO Staff Officer, who happens to live in our own Diocese (Farmington).

“In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion,” by the Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering

Growing up, I anxiously awaited signs of spring. In February, I would watch as some poor groundhog was roused from his winter nap by a group of men decked out in top hats. Hoping for an early spring. Then, I would hope that March would begin with bad weather, so spring would come at the end of the month. There is something magical about spring and how the wait for it often coincides with Lent, another time of waiting. For many of us, as March arrives this year, it brings with it the anniversary of the shut-downs, lockdowns, and changes caused by the coronavirus. Many of us are feeling the effects of a long year, one that has felt very lion-like in terms of the old proverb and has been full of change, unrest, fear, and isolation. My guess is that we are all feeling a bit weary and perhaps are searching for signs of spring, hoping for the gentleness of a lamb after a season of journeying with the lion.

Today, I watched what I hope is the last snowfall of the season. The clouds are now moving on and the bright blue sky of the American Southwest is peaking through. The birds are rejoicing that I ventured out earlier in half a foot of snow to fill their feeder, while my daughters played in the snow nearby. As I watch all of this happening in my yard, I feel weary and am looking for signs of spring. Spring, for me at least, is all about hope. It is the annual reminder that God is making all things new. The hope of resurrection is all around, as I start at flowerpots, wondering if the plants have survived the winter. Garlic that I planted in the fall will be the first signs of new life in our garden. I've already ordered the seeds of other plants that will join the garlic once the temperature holds at night, and I've bought new bubbles and jump ropes for the girls. It's as if, by doing these things, I can make spring come a little faster, as if I can will that amazing smell of spring out of the ground and into my heart, simply by preparing for it.

Preparation is a great Christian discipline. We are often preparing for things, from Lenten commitments to Advent wreaths, and our faith has thrived for generations on traditions handed down, shared, and lived. The seasons of preparation in Christianity are often rewarded with great celebration: high holy days, festive worship, big family meals, and time together. For the last year, we have prepared and hoped for those celebrations of old while finding ways to celebrate safely in the midst of the pandemic. I think the weariness is a sign of hearts longing for resurrection and transformation. And while the pandemic is by no means over, there is hope. Vaccines in the United States are getting to people; summer is coming, which seems to push back against the virus as well; and we have grown more resilient, even if it doesn't feel like it, and that resiliency will serve us well. Hope is like the soft wool of a lamb, the grassy smell of a sheep's breath, the

gentle bleat of a lamb calling for its loved ones. Hope feels like spring. Hope creeps up on us, like the green infusing the blade of grass, the crocus beginning to germinate, or the garlic plant darting out of the cold ground. Hope makes us strong enough to keep going and wise enough to know that it isn't all settled, like a cold night after a warm spring day. But we have to prepare and watch for hope, just as we prepare and watch for spring, so we can be fully present to its unfolding. Hope, like spring, will show up whether we are ready or not, but it really is glorious to watch it from the very first signs. Hope emboldens us, strengthens us, and empowers us to keep showing up in the world. Hope is a rainbow that God places in the sky to remind us that God loves us. It has been a very long year and a really long time to wait for that lion to head out like a lamb. I don't know what March will bring in terms of the pandemic, but I do know that spring and Easter are on the way and hope is already here, peeking out in small ways and encouraging us not to give up, but to keep moving forward. And for that I give thanks. Happy spring; may you find the hope of Christ unfolding all around you.

SHOP ON THE CORNER RE-OPENING

We need more people to be able to reopen the Shop on the Corner every Wednesday beginning in April. Volunteers may work one Wednesday a month or all Wednesdays--their choice. We need at least four volunteers to work with the team leader for opening and closing on Wednesdays. If you are interested and need more information, please call Karen Humphrey, 662-0963.

From the Editor:

Dear friends,

It was great to be able to worship in person with several of you last Sunday, March 7. I sincerely hope that increasing numbers of parishioners will feel safe coming back to in-person services very soon. I had become very used to sitting in front of my laptop with a cup of coffee at 10:30 am on Sundays, but it certainly felt good to put on real clothes (not sweatpants) and walk to church last Sunday.

By the time you read this, we will be moving towards the end of Lent. Something else I am enjoying in this season is reading the many and varied contributions to the ecumenical Lenten Devotional booklet. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Sadly, I will not be in town for the 3 weeks leading up to Easter and will spend all of Easter Day itself in transit from the UK back to Albuquerque. I would appreciate your prayers for safe travel and for my time in the UK. I will again be joining you via Facebook Live on Sundays (in sweatpants!).

Happy Easter!

Best wishes,

Claire



Why believe in God? What does it mean to be saved? Was Jesus Christ really God and, if he was, why did he have to die on a cross? This is a book about the basics of Christianity. It is for those who are curious about God, but are uncertain about where to turn in a world where different Christian groups seem to have radically different interpretations of the same teachings. It is also for those who have attended church all of their lives, but find it growing stale and repetitive. The message of Jesus Christ is remarkably

simple and is assessable to everyone, regardless of their culture or their intellectual capability. Set aside for a moment the complex philosophy and lengthy arguments and just listen to what Jesus Christ taught us. It will change your life.

Steve Younger will lead a 4 week discussion of his new book starting on March 21st, 12:15pm on Zoom. There are copies of the book available in the TOTH library, or you can order it on Amazon by searching "Stephen Younger Common Sense Christianity"

This is a book discussion you won't want to miss!

Trinity Tidings

A newsletter of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

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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 in April. Submission deadline Friday, April 9.

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