

Trinity Tidings

From the Rector

That Old Corellian Philosopher Was Right

Well, you ask me if I'll forget my baby, I guess I will some day. I don't like it but I guess things happen that way. You ask me if I'll get along. I guess I will some way. I don't like it but I guess things happen that way.

That's Johnny Cash for you, waxing poetically and philosophically under the guise of a song about heartbreak. "Guess Things Happen That Way," the aforementioned Cash song, is something to marvel at, particularly if you find yourself stuck thinking about change, transitions, and the fluidity of life, which—let's be honest—we are all stuck thinking about. Cynthia is retiring. I'm taking a new call. And in a few months, Valerie is off to seminary. We've hired new Administrators and a Bookkeeper, Nelly will take up the organ upon Val's departure, and the Vestry is hard at work on finding an interim. For real, though, your Vestry is doing amazing, prayerful work during this transition. I hope you will let them know just how much you appreciate their work. But even with happy resolutions to those scenarios...that doesn't take away the pain or anxiety that comes with such transition. And that's where the wisdom of Mr. Cash comes in. He's talking about losing a lover, of course, which is a bit different than our life here. But it is about loss, about change and transition, and about ultimately finding a way forward. The highlight for me, however, is the resistance: *I don't like it, but I guess things happen that way.*

I don't like it. That's a universal human experience wrapped up in four little words. *I don't like it.* And how could we? Change is hard, and we naturally resist it because it produces uncertainty, which leads to fear, which could lead to anger, hate, or despair. I'll spare you a "Star Wars" reference done in Yoda's voice here, but it's the truth. Change doesn't just bring new external experiences, but internal, emotional, and spiritual turmoil as well. Because it's not just about losing something, it's also about not knowing what you're going to get. It requires a suspension of control, or at least suspending the illusion of control, and none of us likes to do that. Cash was right, and gave us a mantra for our times: *I don't like it, but I guess things happen that way.*

I can imagine the disciples feeling much the same way. Jesus was gone. And gone in a spectacular way. Ascending to the sky, which was traumatic enough. Pentecost had yet to happen, so they were in a

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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: On-line Healing Service

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal
can be found at:

3900 Trinity Drive,
Los Alamos NM 87544

www.latoth.org

505-662-5107

THOUGHTS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Thoughts from the Senior Warden

This has been a busy month at TOTH: Easter, Vestry retreat, planning for the transition from Fr. Chris to an Interim Rector, hiring and training of new office staff, reconfiguring of social distancing to allow more people to worship in the sanctuary, and planning for a party to say goodbye to Fr. Chris and Cynthia. **Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 23, 1-3 pm, for a FAREWELL PARTY in Kelly Hall.** This will be a chance to say an in-person farewell to both Fr. Chris and Cynthia, to share good memories, and to begin making new ones. In addition, there will be individually wrapped refreshments to take home and enjoy – keeping in line with diocesan strictures against large groups eating or drinking without masks. This is being planned as an open house with family and friends of the honorees dropping in for the celebration but not congregating in large groups. We definitely want to show Cynthia and Chris how much we love them but not cause any COVID-related issues. So, please, pick out your fanciest masks and join the Vestry for this celebration!



As the school year draws to a close, we also will be recognizing our graduating seniors. **I invite all 2021 seniors to be at the 8 am in-person service on Sunday, May 30. If there are any 2020 graduates still in town, please also join us.** The TOTH congregation would very much like to see all of you and applaud your accomplishments.

In the midst of preparations for goodbyes, let me assure you that the Vestry is taking steps to look for an Interim Rector. We are receiving information from Canon Lee Curtis and are considering all the options for someone to serve our congregation during the coming months. As and when I have more concrete information, I will share it with the entire congregation. In the meantime, please be thinking about things you would like to see happening at TOTH in the next year. I know our Christian formation sessions on Justice and Dignity will continue into the summer, with Zoom sessions at 12:15 most Sundays (keep an eye on Realm messages for the links). As conditions continue to improve, I anticipate that we will be able to return to in-person services at 10:30, while continuing to offer a live-streamed version. This could mean the need for more Altar Guild members, acolytes, or lay readers. If you have been considering joining one of these ministries over the past year, watch your *Tidings* and e-mails for information about whom you need to contact.

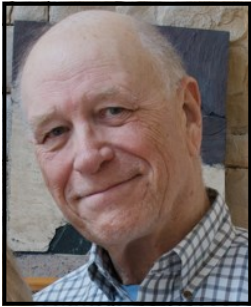
Please also pray for your Vestry and the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Chris has led this parish so ably over the past six years, nurturing us, pushing us, and enabling us to find our own voices and gifts as the children of God. We will miss him terribly, but he has done such a good job that we are now equipped to look to and plan for a strong future for Trinity on the Hill. Your Vestry will be taking the initial steps in this period of transition but, just as you hear “it takes a village to raise a child,” I submit it takes a congregation to take a vision and see it to fruition in a strong, healthy parish. We are blessed to have Mother Laurie continuing to serve this parish and we will be joined by an Interim Rector this summer. However, it will take the prayers, energy, ideas, and commitment of each of YOU to insure TOTH continues to be the vital, spiritual, outward-facing church that we all love. We are all in this together and I can’t help feeling that with so much change happening all at once, God has something really spectacular planned for the future of our church. I pray that TOTH has the patience and the courage to let Him lead us in this new adventure!

Be well, and I hope to see you all on May 23 – if not before!

Yours in Christ,

Margaret Odell, Senior Warden

FROM THE CO-JUNIOR WARDENS



Once again, greetings from your co-Junior Wardens. We are continually in awe of the number of people at TOTH who contribute to our ability to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” and hope to be able to make others aware of their contributions.

This month we’ve continued our quest to learn about all of the many activities and repairs affecting TOTH. We had an instructive meeting with our Sexton, Wendy Huff, to learn about her schedule, the many things she does for us, and her interfaces with others using TOTH facilities.

Paul and Cynthia have been instrumental in ensuring that the rug in Kelly Hall is now re-glued and a transition piece installed over the rug where the discontinuity caused by a foundation shift was located. By providing a slope in place of a 1.5-inch change in height, we’re hopeful that the tripping hazard will be reduced. This also means that Kelly Hall is now open and available for our farewell party on May 23!

Brad Wright joined us in a meeting with a local roofer to get an estimate for additional guttering to reduce the water loading that sometimes causes leaks into the men’s restroom, as well as additional repairs to prevent more leakage under the south-side portico. The roofer also examined the roof and concluded that there is some residual hail damage on one section that we may be able to get repaired by our insurance.

Mark Hartman has continued his research on the best automatic door openers for the Kelly Hall restrooms. He has contacted the manufacturer to ensure that the selected opener can be made to work with our somewhat non-standard doors.

Rick Rothrock has been working with Fr. Chris to investigate the best cameras and mountings in the main sanctuary to allow continued live-stream presentation of our worship services. Rick and Jonathan Triplett have been working with Fr. Chris and Michelangelo to learn the video system and ways to streamline it. We feel that this worship presentation is an important part of the continued faith journey for those TOTH members who cannot attend live services, even after the threat of COVID has lifted.

There is much more to do! You may have noticed that some of the landscaping around the church needs attention and the trim needs painting. If the Lord is willing, we will begin to address those needs in June.

Blessings in Christ,
Paul Lisowski
Lisa Rothrock



United Thank Offering (UTO) Update

At 132 years old, UTO is alive and well! Our relatively new Diocesan Coordinator, Cindy Davis, as has assembled a Grant Screening Committee and is attempting to increase communication with all the congregations, encouraging all of us to have a parish coordinator and to continue to use our Blue Boxes. I am proud that our church family has been active in this ministry for many years by learning how to live with gratitude and to express that with offerings that will help the wider church's mission.

I found this quote in a little book *Attitudes of Gratitude*, which I have found to be very true in my own life:

"The quickest and easiest way to connect to God is to express our gratitude, because gratitude is the response to the giver of a gift. When we give thanks to other people for a gift, we are also thanking God for what we have received beyond that gift, such as food, shelter, the beautiful sun, life itself. As we give thanks, our spirits join with God in the dance of life that is the interplay between giver and receiver."

Also:

"Gratitude creates a sense of fullness, and from this fullness, we feel moved to give. That's because true kindness and generosity come from a response to this sense of fullness. We give best from overflow. It's a beautiful cycle. The more you feel grateful, the stronger is the impulse toward giving. And the more you give, the more you receive - love, friendship, a sense of purpose and accomplishment."

I invite you all to pick up a Blue Box at the church to begin the daily practice of giving gratitude to God for some special blessing you have received, and to drop a coin or two into your Blue Box. I feel like some of you have already experienced this "fullness" that was discussed above and the joy of giving it creates. At some point this year we will have an ingathering where we can all UNITE in our offerings.

Bishop Hunn has announced that the Annual Diocesan Convention in October will again be on Zoom, but I still pray that we will have a high percentage of TOTH families participating in UTO.

Boxes are available in the hallway next to the Chapel and in the Narthex. I'll even happily mail you one if you contact me!

In gratitude for all God's blessings, including being friends with you all,

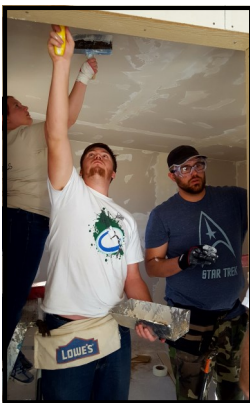
Cathy Walters

UTO Coordinator for TOTH

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IMAGES AND MEMORIES OF FATHER CHRIS SERVING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE



All photos: Lynn Finnegan

From the Editor:

Dear friends,

All change at TOTH! As you probably all know by now, Nancy Coombs and I will be taking over from Cynthia in the TOTH office. The job-share arrangement suits us both and you can find our work schedule elsewhere in this edition of *Trinity Tidings*. Cynthia is irreplaceable so we have big shoes to fill! Please keep us in your prayers. I will miss both Cynthia and Chris very much.

Of course, we don't yet know who our boss will be! Please keep our Vestry, search committee, and our future interim priest in your prayers. Pray too for Chris, Julia, and Jude.

Best wishes,

Claire

IMAGES FROM CYNTHIA'S MINISTRY AT TRINITY ON THE HILL

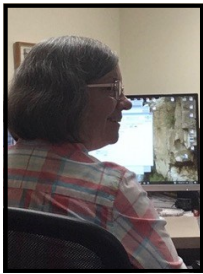


Photo credits: Cynthia Biddlecomb and Claire Singleton

TURN TO PAGE 11 FOR MORE PHOTOS!

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 chil-
dren,*

*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 June. Submission deadline Friday, June
11 (or soon thereafter....).**

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

STAFF CHANGES AND NEW OFFICE HOURS

NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Nancy Coombs

Nancy attended a TOTH Easter service with friends in 2000, and immediately felt at home. Although raised in the Presbyterian Church, she discovered that the rituals of the Episcopal Church resounded with her spirit. After her mother's death, her father Donald moved to Los Alamos to live with her brother's family, and he joined Nancy in worship at TOTH until he passed.



Having originally followed her brother to Los Alamos in 1990, Nancy accepted a position as an elementary school teacher, working at Aspen Elementary for 15 years. She then moved into marketing, first at the Fuller Lodge Art Center, then at UNM-LA. She also interviewed many Los Alamos "celebrities" for the KRSN morning show.

For the past ten years, Nancy has served as a counter after services and was responsible for scheduling other counters. This year she has been working with Cynthia to enter contributions into the Realm system. As a recent retiree, she is pleased to have the opportunity to work in the office, and interact with parishioners during the week.

The TOTH office schedule below will take effect on June 1, 2021.

We will not close for the lunch hour.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 am—1 pm	Nancy	Nancy	Claire	Nancy	Claire
1 pm—5 pm	Nancy	Claire	Nancy	Claire	Claire

NEW OFFICE MANAGER: Claire Singleton



Although raised in the English Methodist Church, Claire has been worshipping at TOTH since coming to Los Alamos in 2000. She began helping Cheryl out with the bulletins a few years later, moving on to serving as office assistant and substitute for Cynthia. Most recently, she has been preparing the weekly bulletins, editing *Trinity Tidings*, and scheduling acolytes and LEM/LRs from home.

Claire also sings in the Chancel Choir, attends Women Alive in Mind, Body and Spirit on Tuesday mornings, and has served on many house-building mission teams in Juarez, Mexico. She is a licensed Lay Reader and Lay Eucharistic Minister. When not working for TOTH, she is a freelance translator of Dutch and French to English. She enjoys swimming, dance classes, yoga, musical theatre, acting, dancing with the Hill Stompers, and Sacred Harp singing.

SAVE THE DATE!



On **June 19, 2021**, Jill Cline and Lynn Finnegan (both pictured left) will be **ordained to the transitional Diaconate** along with four others. The ordination will take place in person for the ordinands at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque. We are awaiting the final details on who else will be allowed to attend in person (if any) and the time. It will also be **live-streamed!**

Lynn was put forward for ordination by Trinity on the Hill and Jill by St. James in Taos.

After a period of private discernment and then through a discernment committee, they were admitted into the process for ordination in March 2018.

They have spent the last three years in the Iona School for Ministry, a distance-learning seminary, with other ordinands from the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Both have said that one of the best things about the process was the people they got to know through seminary and the community that was formed. They were only able to meet via Zoom for the last year, but the relationships developed in person carried them through. The friendships established will be a major support for them in their upcoming ministry.

Jill has been serving Trinity on the Hill and Lynn has been serving St. Bede's in Santa Fe for their internships. They are excited about all they have learned and the wonderful people they have met in their internships and have expressed sincere thanks to TOTH for all the support, encouragement, and prayers!

Once ordained, each will spend six months to one year as a Transitional Deacon prior to becoming ordained as priests. While they do not know their assignments yet, it is highly unusual to have a first year Deacon at a church with an interim rector. This both protects the interim rector from being pulled in too many new directions and ensures that the Deacon will have enough time with his or her mentor. It is unlikely either one of them will serve at Trinity on the Hill. This might be disappointing for us, but we know God has something special in mind for both of them and for us!

Laurie Triplett

OFFICE STAFF: OLD AND NEW

TOTH has a new Bookkeeper! Pictured below (with Claire and Nancy) is Brenda Abeyta, who took up her new post on May 4, 2021.



kind of limbo. Wondering what to do in the wake of Jesus' departure. But that wasn't all the pain they were dealing with...the only transition they were making. The occasion of this morning's gathering was the selection of Judas's replacement. Now, they obviously had issues with Judas. But I'm sure their feelings were complex, layered. They lived and ate with him, talked theology with him. They ministered in the name of Jesus together and dreamed of a new world. The first trauma was his betrayal, the second his death. All of their most recent days were marked by transition.

They, like us, human to the core...they were in pain. They were scrambling to discern a way forward, to figure out what the next right thing was for their burgeoning community. And what did they do? They played dice. They cast lots. They embraced both change and chance as they did something uncharacteristically spiritual in this quest. They prayed first, of course. They asked for wisdom and guidance. But they didn't sit in silence for hours. They didn't draft up their wish list for a new disciple, only to ignore it later. They said a quick prayer and got down to the business of selecting a new colleague. Because they had other business to tend to. They had the business of setting the world on fire with the proclamation of the imminent kingdom of God, making Jesus known through the good trouble of their public witness.

That's your mission too, to set this community ablaze in service to our crucified Lord, making him real and tangible for the world around you. In the midst of their confusion, their transitions, the disciples built something beautiful, the riches of which we are sharing at this very moment. They didn't pretend things weren't changing, even if they didn't like the changes. Their pain accompanied them even as they set the world on fire. This community, our parish family here, finds itself in the same situation. *I don't like it, but I guess things happen that way.* It's Cash's refrain, it was the disciples', and it's ours too. But from the chrysalis of transition, the disciples emerged even more committed to the way of Jesus. *I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

So shall it be here, in these hallowed walls that have stood for decades. When you think about it, this is a relatively young church. The best days—the days of more fruitful ministry, of new and creative responses to the beckoning call of Christ—those days are ahead of you here. Jesus sent the disciples out, to remain into the world, to testify to the truth, to be sanctified by his truth, to sanctify the world with his truth. This is a word for you, those who continue on to make the name of Jesus known to the world as a part of Trinity on the Hill. You belong to Jesus Christ, whose witness you are, whose spirit you bear within you. You are empowered, even as transitions still abound.

This doesn't mean you have to like it, or warmly embrace these changes immediately. And that is okay. We are human, all too human. And that's a good thing, because when we give ourselves over in trust to the One who once guided the early apostles, even as we fear the uncertainty, history shows us that wonderful things can happen. To quote that famous Corellian philosopher, *Never tell me the odds.* With that same confidence, cast your lots upon the faithfulness of Jesus, and there will be no limit to what this parish will do in response to the summons of our Lord.



TRINITY ON THE HILL
Cordially Invites You To A

GOING AWAY PARTY

Sunday, May 23, 2021
1:00-3:00 pm

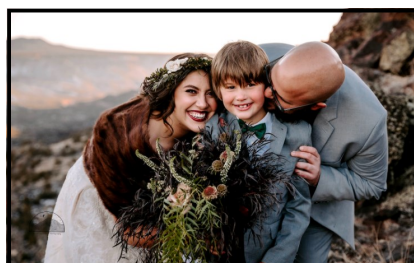
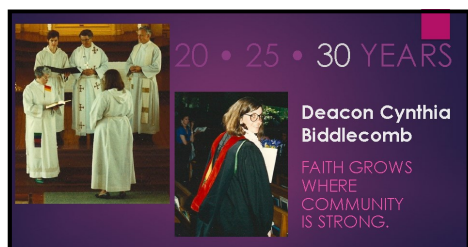
Kelly Hall and Surrounding Grounds

Please join Fr. Christopher Adams and Cynthia Biddlecomb for an appropriately COVID-safe party as they end their ministry at Trinity on the Hill. Individually packaged cupcakes and bottle drinks will be provided.

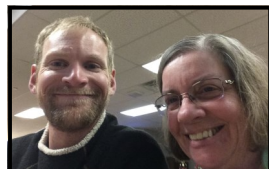
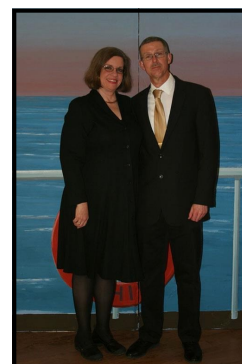
(Watch *the Tidings* for a party in July for Valerie Fassbender!)



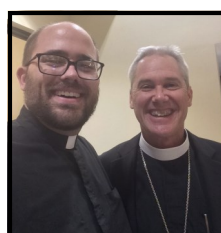
WE WILL MISS YOU BOTH!



Chris and Julia's wedding



Spraying Holy Water!



With Bishop Jim



Staff in 2017



Crop Walk team



Staff birthday lunch at Blue Window



Mardi Gras priest

Photo credits: Cynthia Biddlecomb, Chris Adams, and Karen Humphrey



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