

# Trinity Tidings

## From the Interim Rector



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

All three verbs St. Paul uses to admonish and encourage the Thessalonians actually fall under the one verb: Pray!

When we say "pray" a lot of folks think that's about continually asking for God to intervene, but prayer is much more expansive, and doesn't always include words. If we prayed "thank you" that would be sufficient given the beauty of the world in which we live.

For me, when I am in the world, every time I take out my iPhone and snap a photo, I am saying "Thank You!" to God for the incredible beauty of Creation. That made up at least 800 photo thank-you's while Linda and I were on vacation.

To quote Thomas Merton:

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him.

"Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference."

We need to be thankful, not just for the world, but for each other. It is a true gift for me each Sunday to welcome all of you, and share in the smiles that are reflected in your eyes. We are God's gifts to each other.

As I emphasized in my recent sermon: Pray is what we do. Turn to page 856 of the Book of Common Prayer, and the width and breadth of what prayer encompasses is outlined in a Q&A format.

Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.

Q. What is Christian Prayer?

A. Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## Weekly Worship Schedule

### Sunday

8 am: Rite I Holy Eucharist  
(reservation required)

10:30 am Rite II Choral Eucharist  
(reservation required)

### Wednesday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

12:30 pm: Healing Service

Both in St. Athanasius Chapel

### Friday

7:30 am Morning Prayer (Zoom)

[www.latoth.org/digitalworship](http://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](http://www.latoth.org)

[admin@latoth.org](mailto:admin@latoth.org)

505-662-5107

# FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR



## IMPORTANT PARISH MEETING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

On Sunday, October 17, Canon Lee Curtis, the diocesan transition minister, will celebrate and preach at both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services, after which there will be a light potluck lunch before an all-parish meeting in Kelly Hall to help the search process. The meeting will start at about 12:30 and run perhaps an hour and a half or so. This is the opportunity for everyone in the parish to contribute their thoughts and views, and shape the way we present our parish to prospective candidates. It is an important step in calling our next rector, and we encourage everyone who can do so to attend. For those with young children, the nursery will be opened and staffed.

How much lunch there is depends on how many of you contribute. There is a signup sheet outside the narthex on which you can sign up to bring a main dish/sandwiches or a dessert, and I encourage you to sign up so we don't just get a million cookies for lunch. We will provide drinks. The meal will observe COVID sanitary procedures, with masked and gloved servers serving the food, and we welcome volunteers to help with that. The courtyard will be available to allow outdoor dining for maximum safety.

In conformity with current state and diocesan regulations, we are expected to remain fully masked except while eating. If you are unable or unwilling to wear a mask, please do not attend.

If you are not vaccinated, we ask that you not attend—not only for your own protection, but for the protection of those among us with young children not yet eligible for vaccination and/or those among us who are immune-compromised. There will be an opportunity after the meeting for those not in attendance to submit their views by email.

Bill Godwin, Search Committee Chair

## Thinking Ahead

Now is the time to start Christmas shopping.

As a Parish we will be embracing Advent as a time of anticipation. The Search Committee will be developing our congregational profile and working to prepare to seek priests who will consider being the next Rector of Trinity on the Hill.

As we move toward the end of the season after Pentecost, I ask you to finish your Christmas shopping before we reach the first Sunday of Advent – November 28 – so we may together pray without the distractions and stress of Christmas shopping.

May God's Blessings guide you,

Raymond+



# THOUGHTS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

## CHANGES - as inevitable as the progression of the seasons

Fall or autumn happens to be my favorite season. I'm one of those people who love learning new things and always looked forward to the beginning of the school year. I was excited to see who my teachers would be, to get new books, and to plan what to wear for that first day of school. It has been decades since I had to gather school supplies, but the sight and the smell of crayons takes me right back to Little Forest Elementary in Los Alamos and the fall flowers and colored leaves I saw on my walk to school.



This year on the date of the autumnal equinox – the astrological change from summer to fall – I was recovering from surgery and had lots of time to think and pray. As Senior Warden, my prayers often include our clergy, vestry, and the congregation at TOTH. We have all weathered a multitude of changes in the past seven months, not only in our local climate but in the life of our church. COVID ebbs and flows, and the debate continues over vaccinations, masks, and social distancing. Fr. Chris, Cynthia, and Valerie left, and Claire and Nancy took over in the church office. The Vestry called Fr. Raymond as our Interim Rector, followed shortly by the choosing of a Search Committee and the returning of the choir to our 10:30 services. Canon Lee Curtis will join us on Sunday, October 17, to help us discern information about ourselves and TOTH, to be included in our Office of Transition Ministry Profile.

I'm a bit breathless just writing all that and definitely overwhelmed by the details required to maintain the life of our Episcopal church. I know how tempting it is to focus on the minutiae of services, audits, COVID mandates, and transitions. I find myself pondering whether the leadership at TOTH has been so concerned with making repairs, filling vacant positions, and returning to in-person worship, that we have lost sight of what God is calling us to as Christians? *‘Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*” (Matt 22:37-39, NIV)

Over the past 19 months, most of us have had time to deepen our relationship with the Lord, even if we couldn't be in our regular pews at 8 or 10:30 on Sundays. But did we take advantage of that time? I dare say we also have found ways, individually and collectively, to love and help our immediate (or not so immediate) neighbors. But now we are longing to return to Trinity on the Hill the way it “used to be.” We want a permanent rector. We want Sunday school and Children's Chapel. We want the bread AND the wine. We want to be able to gather in Kelly Hall to celebrate festival days and joyous milestones in the life of our parish and our parishioners. We want to return to Advent traditions, like the Children's Bazaar. We want, we want, we want... But are we honoring what God wants?

Specifically, are we being good stewards of all the amazing gifts He has bestowed on us – both individually and as a congregation? Are we praying about what we each can contribute to TOTH and the accomplishment of God's will? We've all heard stewardship sermons and received giving pleas. Whether we call our yearly contribution a tithe, a pledge, an offering, or a gift, what does it mean to each one of us? Are we being mindful of making contributions to keep our church func

(Continued on page 7)

## FROM THE CO-JUNIOR WARDENS



Blessings to all from your Junior Wardens!

Paul sends greetings from Jordan and Egypt!

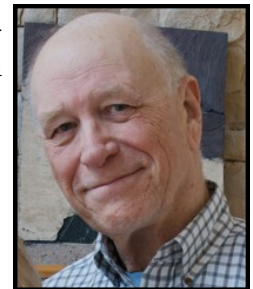
Rick Rothrock has purchased and installed two new pan-and-zoom cameras, which should be cabled by mid-October, God willing. Rick and Mark are refurbishing the production desk in the back left corner of the sanctuary. They have removed a lot of old equipment and are making some interesting additions. First up is adding a sound board. The sound in the sanctuary apparently has not been on for a few years. The sound board went south, but because Chris's voice was so loud, it wasn't an immediate issue. We will be using a "new" wi-fi soundboard that we purchased a few years ago for Generations. How great to be reusing equipment that we already have!

Mark, his crew, and Rick intend to run cabling from the cameras and mics to the back of the sanctuary sometime before October 15. This work will require setting up scaffolding to run the cables across the cross beams and along the wall--no small feat! Yay to Mark and Rick!

In other news, Paul picked up the materials for the sanctuary roof drainage, which he, Mark, and Lisa will continue to work on when Paul returns later in October. Paul has been working hard to obtain all the parts needed for this onerous project. Many thanks to Paul for his diligence! This time of year is usually pretty dry, so the drainage will just need to be fixed before the winter snows come. Mark is also working on the handicap door openers, but it is a slow and tedious process.

That's it from this end. We ask that you pray for our Vestry and Search Committee. We know that God speaks through your prayers, so we thank you heartily in advance.

Blessings,  
Lisa and Paul




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*From the Editor:*

Dear friends,

And I thought Christmas was still a long way off..... This issue of Trinity Tidings contains a request from Father Raymond that we do our Christmas shopping before Advent Sunday! Then, at our staff meeting today (9/30) we discussed the services we will hold at TOTH over Christmas and the New Year. The seasons change (see the Senior Warden's article) and each is beautiful in its own way.

I pray you can all take time to enjoy the beautiful autumn colours (as I call them) on the mountains around us and to prepare spiritually and practically for the last quarter of 2021.

Peace and good health to you all,  
Claire

*Continued from page 1*

Q. What prayer did Christ teach us?

A. Our Lord gave us the example of prayer known as the Lord's Prayer.

Q. What are the principal kinds of prayer?

A. The principal kinds of prayer are adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition.

Q. What is adoration?

A. Adoration is the lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence.

Q. Why do we praise God?

A. We praise God, not to obtain anything, but because God's Being draws praise from us.

Q. For what do we offer thanksgiving?

A. Thanksgiving is offered to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God.

Q. What is penitence?

A. In penitence, we confess our sins and make restitution where possible, with the intention to amend our lives.

Q. What is prayer of oblation?

A. Oblation is an offering of ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God.

Q. What are intercession and petition?

A. Intercession brings before God the needs of others; in petition, we present our own needs, that God's will may be done.

Q. What is corporate worship?

A. In corporate worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments.

## 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 November. Submission deadline Fri-  
day, October 22.**

Submit electronically to admin@latoth.org



## A Remembrance for All Saints – *Ofrenda*

All Saints/All Souls Sunday will be celebrated this year on November 7.

On the calendar the date for All Saints is November 1 and All Souls is November 2. This differentiates those designated as Saints and All the Faithful Departed. We make no such distinction this year in keeping with St. Paul's direction that we are all saints in the community of Trinity on the Hill. The collect for All Souls is this:

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

We all share in the kindred of the Lord as God's children. We honor those who are no longer with us, so in addition to the reading of the names of those who have died, as part of our observance, we'll have an *Ofrenda* before the Altar for that Sunday. The *Ofrenda* will display photographs and items the families of the church bring the week before to remember those who have gone on to their reward.

*Ofrenda* (Spanish for offering) is an altar that is placed in the home to honor the ancestors of the family for the *Dia De Los Muertos*. Trinity on the Hill is a home for many families and those who have passed on will be honored and remembered during our Eucharist, and their spirits welcomed to the altar to share in our thanksgiving.

Raymond+

## THE SHOP ON THE CORNER

Thrift Shop Hours of Operation:

Weekly Wednesdays 8:30 to noon

Second Saturday of each month 8:30 to noon

Third Thursday of each month 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**3900 Trinity Drive – lower parking lot**

**Clothing for the entire family, household items, books, CDs, DVDs,  
linens, toys, games, shoes, boots, seasonal items and more!**

**An Outreach Ministry of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church**  
Proceeds support nonprofit charities

*(Continued from page 3)*

tioning or to helping TOTH do God's bidding in the world – or through our financial giving, are we deliberately, consciously, and prayerfully loving God?

Stewardship can take many forms. I tried (not always successfully) to be a good steward of my energy and time as I healed from surgery. Fr. Chris and the Vestry had to be good stewards in 2020 of the disparate elements needed to sustain our parish through the pandemic. Now, as the congregation of Trinity on the Hill, we are all being asked to be good stewards of our church finances so that we can try to return to a more “normal” worship experience, but also to prepare a strong, balanced budget that will help attract our next Rector.

It's lovely to talk about time and talent as part of stewardship, but let me be frank: TOTH needs your **treasure** in 2021, in 2022, and into the future. There won't be any more federal PPP loans to help pay our staff. Our energy bills will continue to increase as we reopen the church and increase our live streaming presence. Our mortgage will be a drain on our budget for the foreseeable future, if we can't get it paid off. It's very likely that our budget will have to increase to cover salary, moving costs, and benefits for our next Rector. If we don't grow our financial resources, where will cuts be made?

Change is as inevitable as the progression of the seasons. The aspens are turning gold on the mountains west of the church, but they will be tinged with green by the time we are advertising our clergy opening in the spring. What doesn't change, though, is God's love for each one of us. It is still as verdant and supple as the day He claimed us at our baptisms. He has showered His love and His gifts on Los Alamos and Trinity on the Hill for decades. Generations that preceded us built and sustained TOTH and its myriad, active ministries. Let us **not** be the generation that fails to meet God's challenges and changes for us and our parish.

Please pray about the changes you wish/don't wish to see at TOTH, and communicate with both the Vestry and Search Committee. How can you and your family be an important part of the financial future of our church? Watch for a Stewardship Letter from the Vestry later this month. As the seasons continue to change and we see TOTH changing around us, I pray that we all can answer God's charge to love Him and to love our neighbors as ourselves. That would be the most amazing change of all and one that **MUST** happen if we hope to reenergize our parish and discern whom God is preparing to be our new Rector in 2022.

May God continue to bless you all as you ponder changes and your financial stewardship!

Prayerfully submitted,

Margaret E. Odell, Senior Warden



## Adult Sunday School beginning in September

Susan Sprake will lead the following class, based on a television series: **The Chosen** (Produced and directed by Dallas Jenkins). Watch the episode when it is most convenient for you, then join the discussion in person or via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15.



*The Chosen* is a television series about the life of Jesus. For the next eight weeks or so, we will examine the calling of some of the disciples. The director and writers have developed a backstory that helps to shed light on the culture and daily life of the people living at the time of Jesus' ministry. Together they will bring to life the lives of the disciples, the character of Jesus and what it means to be His. Each session works in tandem with an episode from the show, bringing the Old and New Testaments to life in a fresh way.

### Schedule: Viewing of the Episodes

**Tuesday:** Starting September 14th: each episode will be presented via Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:00pm at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87914205750?pwd=NVRlYU1lYXRqTXRndUV5WTk0ZkY1Zz09>

**Wednesday:** Starting September 15th: additionally, each week's episode will be shown at TOTH on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 PM in Sherrill Hall.

Each episode can be viewed on the studio website at:

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>

or you can download the Angel Studios app from that web link.

Episodes are also available on YouTube at

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch?ap=true>

### Discussion:

**Sunday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15:** a discussion of the key topics and questions will be held in Sherrill Hall.

Limited numbers of companion workbooks are available in the TOTH office, as well as copies of each week's lesson.

If you have questions, please email the office ([admin@latoth.org](mailto:admin@latoth.org)) or Susan Sprake directly ([sprakesusan@gmail.com](mailto:sprakesusan@gmail.com)).





A gathering of young families who got together, had pizza, and then watched a child-friendly portion of "The Chosen" Christian education series with Susan Sprake on a balmy evening in September.

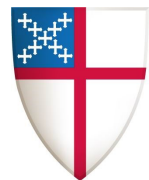
(photo: Maggie Moore)

### ***For the record: September 2021***

#### ***Deaths:***

*John Richard Phillips II (September 8, 2021)*

*Joyce Gilson Kephart (September 16, 2021)*



## SAVE THE DATES

October 28—30



### The 69th Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande

All are welcome to watch online.

Opening worship at 7 pm Friday at *Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande* Facebook page

November 25

Thanksgiving Day service at 10:30 am, possibly followed by a potluck meal. Watch this space!

November 28

First Sunday of Advent

December 4

Children's Christmas Bazaar

December 12

Greening of the Church

December 19

Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:30 am

December 24

Christmas Eve services at 5:30 pm and 10:30 pm

December 25

Christmas Day worship at 10:30 am

December 26

Services at 8 am and 10:30 am

January 1, 2022

The Feast of the Holy Name, 10:30 am

January 2, 2022

Services at 8 am and 10:30 am



TOTH Roses by Raymond



### 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.

#### Tuesdays:

- **Women Alive** via Zoom at 8 am. Contact Rozelle Wright or Lynn Finnegan for the link. First Tuesday meeting outdoors at 6:30 am.
- Zoom **Coffee Hour** at 10 am. Link sent out via email ([admin@latoth.org](mailto:admin@latoth.org) for more information)

#### Wednesdays:

- **Holy Eucharist at 7:30 am** in St. Athanasius Chapel. In-person service only.
- **Service of Healing** at 12:30 pm in St. Athanasius Chapel. In-person and Zoom service.

#### Fridays:

- **Morning Prayer** via Zoom at 7:30 am. Led by Deacon Lynn Finnegan. Zoom link sent via e-mail.
- **Bible Study** via Zoom at 1 pm. Contact [admin@latoth.org](mailto:admin@latoth.org) for more information

#### Sundays:

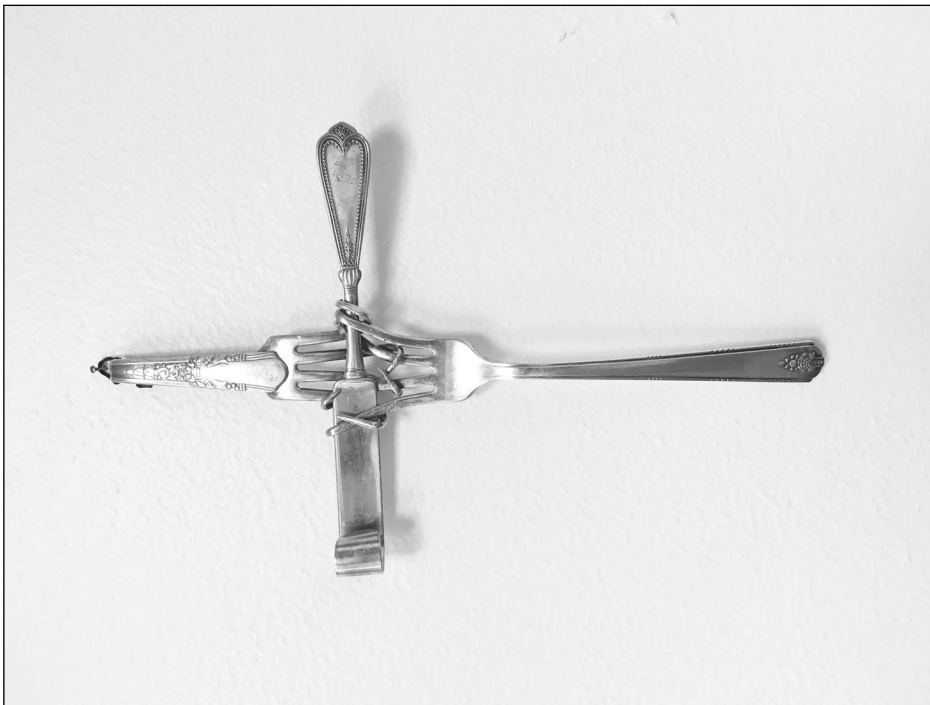
- **Holy Eucharist Rite I** at 8 am, in person only.
- **Choral Eucharist Rite II** at 10:30 am, in person and via Facebook live at [www.facebook.com/trinityoth](https://www.facebook.com/trinityoth)
- **Christian Education** via Zoom at 12:15 pm. Link sent out via email.

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Return Service Requested



Trinity Tidings  
October 2021