

Trinity Tidings

From the Interim Rector

Being Thankful can keep us Happy!

On Thanksgiving Eve we celebrated those things that make us thankful. We mentioned wives and husbands, children and families, God and church, beautiful skies, pets and friends, and all the many things that make our lives worth living.

My own thoughts were that when we are thankful we are also happy. When we're not thankful, we tend to be unhappy. Personally, I prefer being happy. Studies have shown that happiness provides a higher level of health.

The difficulty is that we can't be happy all of the time. Why is that?

I came across an article by a physician, Dr. Allan J. Hamilton, in *Spirituality and Health*. The article concerned Dr. Hamilton's inquiry into how the brain dealt with happiness and joy, and why it didn't last.

What he found was that the brain deals with happiness the same way it deals with pain: it forgets once the triggering event is over. This all was in the context of Dr. Hamilton dealing with his diagnosis and treatment for cancer, so he was not in the best of moods to begin with. However, what he discovered was that his happiness could be prolonged when he acted out of thankfulness.

Dr. Hamilton found that if he could maintain an attitude of thankfulness in his daily life, his joy, his happiness was prolonged – even in the midst of being treated for cancer. He came up with a list of seven activities that can assist us in working on being thankful.

It's not an easy list, and I don't suggest you do it all this week, but think about working on it this Advent season, as we await the coming of the Lord. Here it is:

- Keep a journal of blessings. Every day write down three items for which you are grateful. Write as much as you can about each one.
- Perform three acts of random kindness before noon and three before sundown. Hurry. Make sure you will get no credit for them and that no one else will ever know about them.
- Write testimonials of gratitude to three individuals who meant a great deal to you in your life. If they are still alive, if practical, hand deliver them in person. If they have passed away. Deliver them to their next of kin.
- Fill out three thank you cards each morning.
- Buy three books for three friends and send them anonymously to their attention.
- Make three apologies for three wrongs you have committed.
- Give three days of earnings anonymously to a charity in the name of three individuals who have wronged you.

Advent is a time when we are drawn into New life and New expectations for the coming year. Maybe with a little extra joy, the coming year will be even brighter than the best of the past.

Blessings

Father Raymond+



Contents

- p. 2: From the Senior Warden
- p. 3: From the Co-Junior Wardens
- p. 4: Santa Fe Women's Ensemble
- p. 5: For the Record;
Shop on the Corner; Colophon
- p. 6: Convention Delegate Report;
- p. 7: 2021 Parochial Report Data
- p. 10: Advent: Preparing for a Return
- p. 12: Bishop's Ridge Invitation
- p. 13: Advent/Xmas/Epiphany dates
Young Family Pizza photo
- p. 14: December volunteer schedule
- p. 15: Weekly worship schedule
- p. 16: Search Committee Report;
Christmas Shopping?
- p. 17: LFS Thank You letter

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

8 am: Rite I Holy Eucharist
(masked)

10:30 am Rite II Choral Eucharist
(masks optional)

Wednesday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

12:30 pm: Healing Service

Both in St. Athanasius Chapel
(both masked)

~ Come Worship With Us! ~
All are Welcome

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal can
be found at:

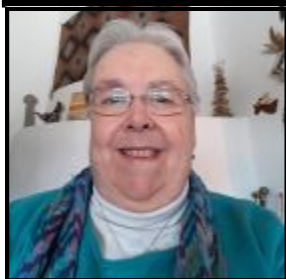
3900 Trinity Drive,
Los Alamos NM 87544

www.latoth.org

admin@latoth.org

505-662-5107

THOUGHTS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



Advent Thoughts by Margaret Odell, Senior Warden

I am writing this as Advent is beginning and I already feel the anticipation of the season as I wait to hear “O come, Oh come Emmanuel.” All the verses are powerful, but at this time in the life of our parish, I am most struck by the verse suggested for December 23: “O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear...” (The Hymnal 1982; 56)

Trinity on the Hill has not been scattered as severely as the Israelites, but we have been dispersed to our homes for much of the past three years due to Covid, due to changes in the leadership of our congregation, and, perhaps, due to national and world events. I wonder whether the anticipated birth of Jesus or the calling of a new Rector could tip the balance of our lives and entice parishioners to return to TOTH? Will the beginning of the new church year be the impetus for TOTH parishioners once again to turn to the church with their time, talents, and treasure? I certainly do not have the answers to these questions, but I am praying it is a resounding “Yes!” Unfortunately, from articles I’ve been reading recently, TOTH is not the only congregation pondering these questions. The Vestry and the Search Committee are definitely concerned about the commitment of the TOTH congregation. The life and health of this church do not depend on the clergy so, as much as we are eager to welcome a new rector, she/he will not be able to revitalize this parish by themselves. Luckily, everything at TOTH is not grim and sorrowful. Christian education for both our children and adults is once again engaging parishioners between the Sunday services. On certain Wednesday evenings, Kelly Hall is full of young families enjoying food and fellowship. Our music program is still in need of a leader, but the choir and our substitute organist and pianist are providing inspiring melodies for regular and special services. Our adult and children’s sermons continue to challenge our perceptions of the Gospels and how they apply to our daily lives. I am grateful for these signs of caring and community in our parish.

By the time this article is published, our individual estimates of giving for 2023 will have been collected and blessed at the main altar. Hopefully the total of these estimates will be more than sufficient to pay our staff, to maintain our buildings and grounds, and to continue our outreach beyond the doors of our parish. If you didn’t turn in your Estimate of Giving card, it’s not too late. Copies are available in the church office, or by contacting Claire and Nancy who can mail you a giving card. It is also not too late to nominate yourself or another parishioner to run for the Vestry. Our election for new Vestry members and Deanery delegates will be held at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, following the 10:30 service. If you have been thinking about getting more involved in the life of our church, serving on the Vestry or representing TOTH at the La Sierra Encantada Deanery meetings and Diocesan Convention may help you realize that desire. On the other hand, assisting Maggie Moore and Kelli Maginot with our children’s Christian education or music might be more your cup of tea. Or, if you are interested in using your knowledge of heating or construction, Lisa Rothrock or Mark Hartman can certainly use your help.

Any one of these opportunities can bear fruit for the vitality of our parish, but can also help us to overcome the parish scattering that has taken place since 2019. I appreciate the season of Advent and opportunities to ponder what may be in store for my life in the new year, but I confess I rail

(Continued on page 5)

FROM THE CO-JUNIOR WARDENS



Hello again, Mark beginning this month's selection yet soon offering for the handoff to my Co-Junior Warden. I hope I can get it to her in time. A round of applause, please, for Lisa, who has taken the lead for so many months while I hide behind the scenes. Today I write to you from a comfy seat at my bar with a view to the gently sloping landscape falling away at the canyon edge, sipping, well, use your imagination.

My daily Mantra is "it could be worse" and I find myself parroting that so often these days. So much so that my "thankful for" a few days ago was simply such, as a shortcut to escape taking enough time for thought any more introspective. We as a

church, and then greater community as a whole, are all blessed. We need to remember to acknowledge that which lies beneath the surface when thinking "Bless this mess" or when seldom is heard a disparaging word such as "God Bless it" usually followed with some grouching and curmudgeoning. If you have gotten this far in reading, I put to you "It COULD, be worse". You might not be able to be subjected to my writing.

The good news is that our building is still standing, the cracks are evident but not frighteningly worse, the roof seems to be keeping out moisture from the sky, and we have been able to have opportunities for fellowship in addition to worship.

Regarding our church building, there is some news from the other category. One topic surrounds the heating system for Kelly Hall which has consumed countless hours of visits, mostly by Brad, but also of my time contemplating any possible answers to my question "why isn't this thing working?", all the while resisting temptation to think, as mentioned above, or something worse. Suffice to say, we really need to ramp up efforts in reaching out for help to finding solutions and make some repairs that might be costly. It is difficult to hold my fingers crossed while typing but you could, in solidarity, as you read.

In other news, hopefully uplifting, Richard and I were able to do some straightening and tidying on November 12. Thank you immensely Richard for taking the lead. As a result of that effort, it probably could be noticed that the old music cabinet got moved from the Kelly Hall vestibule/hallway. Perhaps that the shovels and ice-melt crystals have been distributed outside the doorways? Or if you look in the gardening shed, that the rakes and implements of destruction have been stacked or otherwise consolidated in preparation for the next thought. Winter is coming, hint, hint. Always feel free to spread some joyous ice-melt if slippery conditions are present. Please share your abundant thanks and blessings with the many generous volunteers who have agreed to be scheduled for snow shoveling duties: Maggie Moore, Leni Moore, Michelangelo Lobato, Isabella Stephens, Kristina Brown, and Thane Lawyer.

As you read the whole of this particular monthly *Trinity Tidings* publication and have survived thus far through my writing which has become now perhaps less interesting than something on TV, I remind all that there will be many more opportunities for volunteerism in service to our church everywhere around us. Look for these opportunities and then join in with others or even better yet, champion something on your own. In any case I welcome you to reach out, telling us about your ideas and efforts even when you find the inspiration to act impulsively.

Well, from me that's all the fits that's news to print.

We wish you all a joyous holiday season as we celebrate the coming and birth of our Savior. May it be a time of love, peace, and blessed reflection on the many gifts we received at His birth and are still receiving today. Joyeux Noël, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Feliz Navidad, Fröhliche Weihnachten, and Merry Christmas to all.



Santa Fe Women's Ensemble

Our 42nd Season ~ Winter 2022

In the Still of December



We are excited to present our holiday concerts, titled *In the Still of December*, directed by Dr. **Linda Raney**, emphasizing the meditative aspect of this season as well as its magical natural elements.

Join the Ensemble, violinist Carla Kountoupes and pianist Bill Epstein, for an afternoon of beloved carols from Austria, Germany, France, Ukraine and Wales, along with winter treasures such as the sparkling *Christmas Snowflakes* by Laura Hawley; the thoughtful *Miles to Go Before I Sleep* by Larry Nickel; and the joyful, ecstatic horseback jaunt in *A Winter Ride* by Joan Szymko.

The highlight of the concerts will be the world premiere of *A Christmas Telling of St. Bride of the Isles*, this year's energetic and inspirational commission by award-winning Irish composer Sarah Jaysmith in collaboration with poet **Raymond Raney**. The charming piece explores the legend in which St. Bride is brought from Ireland to Bethlehem to serve as midwife at Jesus' birth.

Come celebrate the best of winter with us!

Concerts at First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Saturday, December 10; Sunday, December 11; Saturday, December 17; Sunday, December 18.

All at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25; students/teachers, military/veterans: \$10.

General admission, with accessible seating available

<https://sfwe.org>

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5597260

Continued from page 2

against the shorter, darker days. So, I especially needed the reminder from the New Testament reading the 1st Sunday in Advent: "Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 3: 12a, NRSV) I personally will be doing everything I can to create physical and spiritual light in my life: lighting the candles of my Advent wreath, powering up my outdoor Christmas lights, and reading my favorite Advent book, "All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings," by Gayle Boss, from Paraclete Press.

Will you join me in donning that "armor of light," whatever that means for you and your family? I pray that all members of my TOTH family will have a bright and blessed Advent!

For the record: November 2022

Celebration of Life: Patricia Jean Nystuen Harlow, November 19, 2022

Burial: Jerry J. Dick, November 29, 2022



"Trinity Tidings" will take a break in January so that the editor can have a break between Christmas and the New Year.

The next scheduled issue will be at the beginning of February, 2023.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

SHOP ON THE CORNER NEWS

Shop on the Corner has morphed into Santa's Workshop, thanks to your kind donations. Please stop by on a **Wednesday between 8:30 am and noon** and find the perfect gift for the lucky people on your list!

Your donations fund TOTH outreach.



Trinity Tidings

A newsletter of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Raymond Raney, Priest-in-Charge
(505) 662-5107 / (505) 934-6213
raymondraney@gmail.com

The Rev. Laurie Triplett, Priest Associate
3900 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 662-5107; admin@latoth.org

Editor: Claire Singleton

Calendars and schedules: Claire Singleton

Distribution: Online publication only.

Paper copies mailed upon request.



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 February, 2023. Submission deadline: Friday, January 27, 2023.

Submit electronically to admin@latoth.org

CONVENTION DELEGATE REPORT

by Karen Humphrey

The Diocese of the Rio Grande held its 2022 Convention this year in-person at the Cathedral. Venues that would support the gathering were hard to find and to support monetarily. Diocese churches and facilities were also declined. As this was the first in-person Convention in three years, there were many issues including the spike in COVID in Bernalillo County and the recommendation of masks during the Convention.

The Convention began on a Friday afternoon and included the Bishop's report, a test of the new voting system, and the Treasurer's presentation of the 2023 budget that was to be voted on the following day. There was an extensive review of changes made from the roadshow presentations to the congregations, and the input received during the preconvention meetings.

Following this opening business, and after a brief recess, the Convention Eucharist was celebrated with The Very Rev. Canon Scott Ruthven speaking in memory of the Rev. Frederick B. "Ted" Howden, priest/soldier/martyr January 27, 1902-December 11, 1942, as the Episcopal Church has formally recognized Fr. Howden in its *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*.

Canon Ruthven's sermon may be heard on the Cathedral YouTube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qgo_Nhr1ox4&ab_channel=St.John%27sABQ

A choir was formed of volunteers from the Diocese, in which Judy Crocker participated from TOTH.

An early Saturday morning Eucharist in the Chapel, followed by Morning Prayer in the Nave preceded the morning session. One of the two Keynote Speakers for the morning was the Rev. Canon Henry L. Atkins, Jr., D.Min. currently serving as an Ecotheologian in residence at the Holy Cross Retreat Center in Las Cruces. He has an extensive background in theology and social justice and called for the implementation and furthering of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato, Si!", which calls people to move toward ecological conversion. He has been involved in the heart of every social justice struggle for the last 50 years; he took Bishop Curry to his first civil rights march. He currently works with the Franciscan Brothers to care for all creation--human and nature.

The other speaker, Sister Joan Brown, a Franciscan Sister and executive director of the Interfaith Power and Light organization, is a leader in engaging faith communities in environmental stewardship and climate action. She has a farming background and a passion for the Sacred Earth Community, as well as many years of experience in the nonprofit and social justice sector. She shared many slides and stories of the work being done in care creation.

Canon Atkins' and Sister Brown's addresses may be heard on the Cathedral YouTube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbKtT16_HSE&ab_channel=St.John%27sABQ

Following the address, Bishop Hunn announced that he is calling for a Diocesan Task Force on Creation Care to begin and he is looking for help. If you feel called to be involved, send the bishop your name and contact information. The Bishop stated that the Task Force will address "What do we need to learn as a Diocese and what do we need to do as a Diocese" as a start of the conversation.

There was a transition time before lunch into Workshops and I attended the Acolyte Pedagogy,

(Continued on page 8)

Episcopal Church releases 2021 parochial report data, offering snapshot of pandemic disruption

BY DAVID PAULSEN

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church on November 22 released parochial report data for 2021. The summaries of churchwide membership, attendance and revenue figures offer the fullest statistical picture yet of the unprecedented disruption to parish life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a one-year snapshot, the release includes some sobering numbers, including a sharp decrease in Sunday attendance during the first full year of the pandemic, when COVID-19 vaccines were just becoming available, subvariants were fueling new outbreaks, some congregations still worshipped only online and many worshipers remained reluctant to gather in person. Churchwide, average Sunday attendance in 2021 barely rose above 300,000, down by 43% from pre-pandemic counts. The 2021 reports offer the first churchwide data on pandemic attendance; the 2020 reports only counted attendance for the first 12 weeks of that year.

Other figures from 2021 leave room for optimism. The number of active baptized members, though down by more than 3% for the second straight year, is nearly in line with recent historical trends, showing a more gradual decline that is mirrored by other mainline Protestant denominations. The pandemic, meanwhile, did not halt the ongoing trend of rising pledges. The average Episcopal pledge increased in 2021 to \$3,339, and overall plate and pledge income was up more than 3% for the year.

“The pandemic called us to get real about what matters, and we’ve learned some things that I hope we don’t forget,” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said in a Nov. 22 interview with Episcopal News Service about the newly released data. “The truth is, we do need human community,” he said, and faith communities are “vitally important” in fostering connection between people.

“We also learned something about the need for something greater than ourselves,” Curry said. “We’re not enough. We’re part of the equation, but we’re not the whole thing. The truth is, we need God.”

For the second straight year the parochial report included narrative questions, intended for congregations to detail a range of ministries and outreach programs, such as racial healing work and anti-poverty efforts, that aren’t fully represented by the annual numbers. And this is the first year the data includes the new category “average weekly online.” That figure, though not meant to be a precise count, reflects the rapid adoption of new technologies across the church during the pandemic to meet the needs of parishioners who didn’t feel comfortable returning to physical worship spaces while the coronavirus continued its spread.

“The Episcopal Church has been tracking church attendance, membership, and related statistics since the early 19th century,” said the Rev. Michael Barlowe, executive officer of General Convention, whose staff collects the parochial report data. “Reviewing this one aspect of the ‘state of the church’ has always been a time for reflection, evaluation, and planning.”

Barlowe told ENS by email that it’s natural for a time of disruption like the pandemic to be reflected in the latest statistics. The church still faced that disruption in 2021, but “with some experience of adaptation,” he said. “So, while the data indicates some of the same measures of the past, we are

(Continued on page 9)

(from page 6)

which essentially spoke to how to attract and train the young people to be Acolytes. However, young people are not the only targets, since many parishes have older congregations who are serving or who want to serve in these roles and should be included.

Following lunch, the Convention Business resumed. The method of voting was explained again and actually tested. This electronic method was facilitated by the Wi-Fi upgrade within the Cathedral; hence, people could vote on their tablets, computers, and phones, enhancing the voting process and cutting down on time to tabulate. In the past, paper ballots had been used and, during the Zoom meetings, voting was done online. This new system cost per each vote, but results were known within several minutes of the balloting. There were a few glitches, but they were quickly remedied.

Elections of candidates for various areas, the 2023 budget, votes for Constitutional Changes from the 69th Convention, Resolution on Canonical Changes, and Courtesy Resolutions completed the afternoon business. Our own Canon Raney was elected General Convention Deputy (Clergy).

The Convention was adjourned with a promise of a survey of the facilities to come. The Convention was held in person, but the YouTube channel was available to watch from home. Copies of the programs may be seen in the TOTH Office.

Some of my comments to the survey will include: the Cathedral's boiler was not functioning so the temperature in the Church was very uncomfortable; the Parishes were situated in the Church pews, which were cold and hard; it was uncomfortable sitting for long periods of time without breaks the first afternoon, and hard to be unobtrusive when needing a stretch or break; the halls were crowded, registration held in a very cramped, low-ceiling area, where social distancing was not possible. This also happened at lunch the next day—and there was nowhere to sit to eat without balancing food on your lap if indeed you did find a chair. Some went outside, but with a low temperature outside, you needed coat, hat, and gloves.

Conventions in the past have been a social gathering, reacquainting with other parishes and people one might not have seen for some time. The sharing of time and events held with other people and Deaneries is always enjoyable. This has not been possible because we have met on Zoom for so long. Things are different now. The virus kept many from interacting and I know some came home sick. In my opinion, a venue that has the church and meeting area separate, such as ours, would be preferable. I liked Convention when it was held at parishes around the Diocese with services in the Church and meetings in the hall. There were no vendors at the Convention. In the past, there were several parishes that brought fund-raising activities into the exhibit hall for sales of crosses, books, embroidered towels, handicrafts, etc. I missed that too.

(from page 7)

also trying out new ways to capture the impact of this adaptation ... of new ways of being church and gathering for worship.”

And even as the 2021 data offers “a modest insight” into the church’s response to the pandemic, “we’ll be able to assess that more fully next year, after we review 2022.”

This year, some congregations are experiencing a return to normal parish life, or a “new normal,” that isn’t reflected in the latest parochial report data. “We’re starting to have Sundays that feel like they used to feel,” Dean Nathan LeRud of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, told ENS earlier this month.

Before the pandemic, the cathedral’s three Sunday services were drawing up to 500 worshippers. Then, in March 2020, in-person services were suspended across The Episcopal Church at the start of the pandemic. Since the initial lockdowns, the cathedral has been among the congregations that have followed widely varying paths and schedules in reopening and resuming many of their former liturgical practices, including in-person services. The recent trend at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is encouraging: This fall, Sunday attendance sometimes has approached 400.

“Almost certainly it’s going to be different,” LeRud said. “Attendance patterns have shifted for a lot of folks.” Some families still have not yet returned to in-person services and might never come back, he said. At the same time, the cathedral has welcomed many new people, some of whom started attending the cathedral’s online services during the pandemic.

And even if the cathedral doesn’t see 1,000 people turn out for its Christmas and Easter services, as was typical before the pandemic, “there’s nothing in the Gospels that says you have to have 1,000 people in the room to experience God,” LeRud said.

In Columbia, South Carolina, St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church had a pre-pandemic average Sunday attendance of about 300 at its two Sunday services. During the pandemic, after briefly suspending in-person worship, those services resumed – not inside the church, but outside in the parking lot under a tent. Families sat at a safe distance from each other, within boundaries marked in chalk on the pavement. Patio heaters and fire pits kept them warm.

Those initial pandemic services were small, no more than 50 people, according to the Rev. Mitch Smith, the rector, but the core group of attendees developed a sense of camaraderie, “like, we’re worshipping together no matter what,” Smith told ENS. “And I don’t think that feeling has left. There was a sort of dogged determination that we’re going to make it through this.”

Now, services at St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields are back in the nave and have nearly recovered to pre-pandemic attendance levels. The church also spent about \$40,000 to install cameras, microphones and other equipment that are used to livestream the Sunday services, as well as weddings and funerals, for those who still prefer to watch from home.

“It’s absolutely valuable, particularly when we have folks who are homebound,” Smith told ENS.

Other congregations, particularly those with fewer members and resources, have struggled to varying degrees to bounce back from pandemic disruptions. The 2021 fact sheet released by The Episcopal Church indicates the number of U.S. congregations dropped to 6,294, nearly 100 fewer than the 6,393 that were counted in 2019. Most churches that remain open were small before the pandemic and appear to be even smaller now, with 90% of congregations reporting attendance of 100 or less. Median Sunday attendance plunged to 21 in 2021 after hovering around 50 in recent years.

(continued on page 10)

Advent: Not just a birth; Preparing for a Return

My favorite Advent hymn is #57: Charles Wesley's words set to the tune of *Helmsley* by Augustine Arne [mine too! Ed.]. This was the processional for my ordination to the priesthood on the third Sunday of Advent. The first verse goes:

*Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.*

It tells of that time when God in Christ will return to earth as foretold in the Book of Revelation, and that is what we celebrate for four weeks before Christmas: Advent. It is a time when we pray for our deliverance once again and remember the price paid for our deliverance from sin. As the second and third verses tell us:

*Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!*

This is the expectation of Advent, that Christ will return and claim this world. We pray by remembering events each week of Advent that proceed toward the Nativity at Christmas and wind down that road to Jerusalem at the end of Lent and the beginning at Easter.

As the fourth verse proclaims:

*Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.*

Have a blessed Advent!

Fr. Raymond+

(from page 9)

“To me, 2021 is still an asterisk year, kind of like 2020. A lot of churches were not open for in-person worship,” said the Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams, who chaired the House of Deputies’ Committee on the State of the Church that drafted revisions to the parochial report, including its narrative questions. “I still think reporting on 2022 is going to be the first real indication of how the pandemic has impacted worship and membership.”

Rankin-Williams, in a November 22 interview with ENS, also emphasized that the parochial reports that are submitted annually by congregations and dioceses provide more than a churchwide snapshot of the year. They can be tools for congregations to assess what they’ve done in the past year as they plan for the future, he said. In particular, the qualitative data collected by the narrative questions allows congregational leaders to “share the information that the numbers are never going to show.”

The General Convention Office plans to release an in-depth analysis of the narrative questions in the near future, similar to an analysis completed on the 2020 responses.

The churchwide tallies of baptized members and Sunday attendance have declined nearly every year since 2001, though the rate of decline has held steady for the past two decades, with both metrics decreasing by an average of less than 3% a year; there was even a very slight increase in churchwide attendance in 2011.

Those two decades of decline, however, are a contrast to the preceding decades, when membership and attendance appeared to have stabilized after dropping from their baby boom generation peak in the mid-1960s.

C. Kirk Hadaway, then the church’s director of research, analyzed those trends through 2002 in a 2004 report titled “Is the Episcopal Church Growing (or Declining)?” His conclusion was that it was doing neither but could go in either direction in the future.

“We have reached a plateau of sorts – from which we can slide into a new decline or begin growing again,” Hadaway said. He warned that growth could be difficult “as long as we are a predominantly white denomination with aging, affluent, highly educated members.”

The Episcopal Church remains a predominantly white, aging denomination, though as it seeks to attract new members, it also has attempted in recent years to confront its past complicity in racist systems, offer a greater welcome to LGBTQ+ Christians, diversify its governance bodies and raise up young leaders.

The church’s November 22 news release announcing the 2021 parochial report data also pointed to The Episcopal Church’s participation in a 5-year research project led by the Hartford Institution for Religious Research, which conducted a survey of 38 Christian denominations in summer 2021.

The preliminary findings suggest that the experience of Episcopal congregations is in line with other denominations, which reported large declines in attendance during the pandemic. The persistence of health risks made it difficult for congregations to return to a sense of normalcy, though many were able to respond to the needs of their communities by stepping up service activities.

The pandemic has challenged all faiths, particularly in maintaining worship practices, Curry said. Congregations that are best positioned to thrive in the post-pandemic world are those “that are spiritually vital, where spiritual practices are really being lived out in communities.”

David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org.



Bishop's Ridge
Cordially Invites You to Your

5th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 10

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

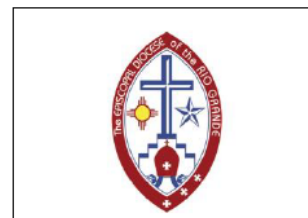
Property will be open to Friends and Visitors beginning at Noon
for hiking and outdoor activities

7855 Old Santa Fe Trail,
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Live Music
Hors d'oeuvres

RSVP to
Christopher at
505-980-5371, cjewell@dioceserg.org



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY SERVICES AT TOTH

Advent III, December 11, 10:30 am	Service of Lessons and Carols, designed by our organist, Margaret-Mary Sauppé Bishop's visitation and Confirmation
Christmas Eve, 5:30 pm	Family Service with Eucharist and Children's Pageant, directed by Joe Cox
Christmas Eve, 10:30 pm	Carol –singing leading into Midnight Mass. Incense will be used.
Christmas Day, 10 am	One service only—Choral Eucharist
New Year's Day	8 am, Holy Eucharist 10:30 am, Choral Eucharist
Friday, January 6, 2023, 6 pm	Epiphany Eucharist, followed by Middle Eastern-style potluck



Picture from the Young Family pizza dinner, November 16.

(photo: Maggie Moore)

DECEMBER

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2022

Date	Time	Server 8 am/ other Acolytes	LR or LEM/LR	Prayers of the People 10:30	Media Team 10:30	Usher 10:30	Altar Guild
Dec 4 Adv. II	8:00	Richard Triplett	Kay Dreamtrader				Marilyn and Paul Lisowski Andy and Linda Light
	10:30	Andy Light, Server Mariah Stephens, Crucifer River Yamada, TB Hazel Brookshire, TB	Lisa Rothrock, LEM/LR	Nancy Coombs	Rick/Mark	Bill Godwin	
Dec 11 Adv. III Bishop	8:00	Luke Favorite	Rozelle Wright				Rozelle and Brad Wright Kathy and Pete Peterson Karen Humphrey
	10:30	Mariah Stephens, Server Ben Foley, Crucifer, Peter Magniot, TB Josh Moore, TB	Susan (LEM/LR), Linda, Jeff, Claire, Lynn	Lisa Rothrock	Richard/ Michelangelo	Andy Light	
Dec 18 Adv. IV	8:00	Joe Cox	Joe Cox				Renee Roybal Valarie Prestwood Karen Humphrey
	10:30	Andy Light, Server Ben Foley, Crucifer CeCe Gulsby, TB River Yamada, TB	Lynn Godwin, LEM/LR	Anne Huysman	Rick/Bill	D. Giovanielli	
Dec 24 Ch. Eve	5:30 pm	Isabella Stephens, Server Luke Favorite, Crucifer Josh Moore, Peter Magniot, TB	Rozelle Wright, LEM/LR NEEDED, LEM	Pop, NEEDED	Michelangelo/ Robin	Maggie Moore	Renee Roybal Valarie Prestwood Karen Humphrey Andy and Linda Light Rozelle and Brad Wright Judy Crocker Cathy Walters
	10:30 pm	Isabella Stephens, Thunifer Luke Favorite, Server Mariah Stephens, Crucifer	Susan Sprake, LEM/LR Andy Light, LEM	Claire Singleton	Rachel/??	Bill Godwin	
Dec 25 Xmas	10 am	Susan Sprake	Rozelle Wright, LEM/LR	Anne Huysman	Richard	Brad/Claire??	Rozelle and Brad Wright Cathy Walters



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.

Sundays:

- **Holy Eucharist Rite I** at 8 am, in person only (**masks required**).
- **Choral Eucharist Rite II** at 10:30 am, in person (**masks optional**) and via Facebook live at www.facebook.com/trinityoth

Tuesdays:

- **Women Alive** via Zoom and in Sherrill Hall at 7:30 am. Contact Rozelle Wright or Claire Singleton for the link. First Tuesday walks around sunrise.
- Zoom **Coffee Hour** at 10 am. Link sent out via email (admin@latoth.org for more information)

Wednesdays (masks required):

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

Thursdays:

- **Men's Group**, 7:30 am, Sherrill Hall
- **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am at Sombrillo Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- **Service of Prayer for Healing**, 10 am at Aspen Ridge Lodge

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Godwin, Committee Chair

The Search Committee and the Vestry have agreed to launch a more aggressive advertising campaign in several publications starting in January and running at least through April. The Search Committee is also working to improve the text in our profile and website to better emphasize our strengths as a parish.

We had arranged with the Diocese to advertise our open position in the Episcopal News Service through the month of October. That didn't happen, apparently for a variety of reasons, including COVID and staff shortages at the Diocesan headquarters. Bishop Hunn has apologized for the oversight and is working to ensure it doesn't happen again.

What you as a member of the parish can do to help us is to (1) spread the word through friends and acquaintances that we are looking for a rector and (2) help us think about how to overcome the housing problem a new rector might have here in Los Alamos, given how tight housing has become. The housing issue is a real impediment to recruiting a new rector here in Los Alamos, and the Vestry is trying to find ways to mitigate that problem. If you have suggestions, please pass them on to the Vestry or the Search Committee.

Meanwhile, the vitality of TOTH is in the hands of the congregation, not the Rector. Unless we all continue to support TOTH generously with our time, talent, and treasure, we cannot hope to be attractive to any prospective rectors. As we begin the new church year, we have a wonderful opportunity to anticipate the coming of our Lord. At the same time we must pull together to energize our parish, by putting on the armor of light and showing the world how special it is to be members of this TOTH community.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Do you have friends or loved ones who already have everything or who are difficult to shop for? Consider donating to Episcopal Relief and Development in their honor!

A couple of "Gifts for Life" catalogs are in the narthex, OR shop on line at www.episcopalrelief.org. Gifts will be matched before the end of the year.





Services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope

REFUGEE & ASYLEE PROGRAMS

Albuquerque
Greeley
Santa Fe

Colorado Springs
Las Cruces

Denver
Salt Lake City

November 10, 2022

To: Los Alamos Interfaith and Community

I hope this letter finds you all well. My name is Farid Sharifi and I am the programs director for Albuquerque office. With the recent burglary of our storage facility, we were devastated to learn that the perpetrators had taken so many items from our storage unit. The items that were stolen included winter coats, jackets, hats, gloves and beddings amongst other things. The loss of winter clothing was especially hard to bear knowing the winter weather was upon us and so many families that had recently arrived would be left without this vital support. Upon communicating this terrible news to Mr. Don Cobb, I was assured that the Los Alamos Community would hold a community donation drive to replenish the lost items. As always, the Los Alamos community has come through with their generosity and love and just in time to provide for those in need. In the last week, we have received several boxes of donations that Los Alamos Interfaith team members have graciously delivered to our office.

Your support of our programs is greatly appreciated and it enables us to extend that care and love to new comers in the Albuquerque area. The level of generosity and compassion that your group and the Los Alamos Community have shown to the Refugee community is truly heartening and exemplary of the wonderful people you have living in your community.

On behalf of the entire Albuquerque staff, clients and community, I would like to provide a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone for your many donations, kindness and care in the past and during this time of need. We cannot do the work that we do without the support of our community and we are forever grateful for your partnership and service to the Refugee community.

With gratitude,

F
a
Refugee and Asylee Programs Director

i Farid.Sharifi@lfsrm.org

d
(505) 933 -7015

S

h

a

r

230 Truman Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

PHONE 505-933-7032 | LFSRM.ORG

f

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Return Service Requested



Trinity Tidings
December 2022/
January 2023