

# Trinity Tidings

## From the Rector:

I have a cousin who is a professor of speech and hearing science. When I saw her this summer, she asked me how I write my sermons. I explained that I typically spend a day reading books, articles, blogs, etc. about the section of scripture I'm going to preach on. I review all the passages I think are relevant before I go to bed and then let it all marinate overnight. Then I usually think of real-life examples, past and present, that can illuminate the text, and think of practical applications for our present circumstances. Well, I think she may have been teasing, but she suggested I could use ChatGPT to accomplish a lot of that for me. She apparently uses it for some of her lectures.



ChatGPT, which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, uses artificial intelligence to produce all kinds of material that is able to imitate what a human can do. People have used it for everything from writing essays to composing music, answering test questions, putting together business plans, and writing computer code. But as I mentioned at the Faith and Science forum session on AI, a chatbot like that can't know what's currently going on in our parish community, and it can't account for the work of the Holy Spirit.

All of this is to say that I didn't mean to preach a stewardship sermon last Sunday! I guess I did, because afterwards a few people told me how much they liked my stewardship sermon. Stewardship, which is classically defined by "all that we do, with all that we have," after we say "I believe," is VERY important. But I also know that if we talk about it too often, people stop listening. So I try to limit how often I preach about it.

Stewardship time is traditionally in the Fall in our hemisphere, because it's harvest time. Normally, at this time of year, churches have groups of people who start thinking about how we can encourage people to support the church in the coming year. And that's when clergy preach stewardship sermons.

Since I've apparently already preached one, I thought I best fill the gaps with some further thoughts about stewardship. In the church, stewardship typically consists of offerings of "time, talent, and treasure" that members share with their parish community.

- In the Episcopal Church, most congregations use the pledge system to build a budget for the coming year. A pledge is an estimate of giving. Pledging helps the finance committee and vestry build a responsible budget, and it's in the Old Testament; scripture talks about a tithe, which is 10%. God expected the people to keep 90% of what they were given (through the grace of God) and give back the remaining 10%.
- Is that 10% of one's net or gross income? In Old Testament times, the church and state were one, and there wasn't a government collecting taxes, so it was probably considered gross income. But, in modern times, when the government *is* collecting taxes, I think it's fair to consider a tithe 10% of net income.

## Contents

- p. 2: From the Senior Warden
- p. 3: From the Junior Warden
- p. 5: Maui Wildfire Relief;  
For the Record
- p. 6: How to help Maui via ERD
- p. 7: "Trinity on the Hill Serves post-Oppenheimer Los Alamos"
- p. 9: "Oppenheimer's secret city is a shrine to the Manhattan Project"
- p. 10: Photos from recent events;  
Colophon
- p. 11: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA First)
- p. 12: July Financial Status
- p. 13: From the Editor
- p. 15: Tidbits from the Nursery
- p. 16: September volunteer schedule
- p. 17: Weekly schedule;  
Blessing of the Animals

## Weekly Worship Schedule

### Sunday

8 am: Rite I Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Rite II Holy Eucharist  
(with music)

### Wednesday

12:30 pm: Healing Service  
St. Athanasius Chapel

~ 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 SENIOR WARDEN



It seems that we were just sweltering in 95+ degree heat, and now we are enjoying a bit of rain and cooler weather, as well as seeing the children returning to school. It's a great time to commune again as a parish, as a church family, in the many ways that this amazing church makes available to us.

We are starting up our ministries again and hope to have some kind of ministry fair introduced soon. Meanwhile, let me highlight a few of them in more detail. Maybe one will literally sing to your heart and stir your soul.

Our **Chancel Choir** will start practicing again on August 30 with our beloved Nelly Case and will be continued in November with our beloved Margaret-Mary Sauppé. The choir needs more voices and would love to have you join—yes, YOU! Please consider sharing your talents and voice.

Maggie Moore and Kelli Maginot have done an outstanding job with our **Young Families** group, which supports not just the kids, but involves the adults as well. Zandrea Glenn is excited to be offering a Sunday School class for the little kids so that Keith Stephens can focus on the older ones (8 and up). Volunteers are always needed. And if you know of new families coming into the community, be sure to let them know that our youth numbers are increasing like gangbusters and encourage them to see for themselves (the Children's Sermon is always such a hoot!).

**Fellowship Dinners** will be coming up soon. It's not too late to sign up if you are interested. Are you single? You are so welcome! Is your place too small to entertain? We have solutions. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office or me at [lgrothrock@gmail.com](mailto:lgrothrock@gmail.com). Here is your chance to get to know new people and welcome them into our community or to get to know people better whom you thought you already knew.

Our **Media Team** is always working to present and improve our services and events online as outreach to those who are housebound or unable to attend services for whatever reason. Thanks to Bill Godwin and Rick Rothrock, a new camera has been added and wireless microphones have been upgraded (have you noticed that Mother Mary Ann's homilies don't crackle any more?). Two new high-quality microphones now better record the organ so that we can better appreciate the amazing gifts of our talented organists. Hopefully coming soon: a raised platform and plexiglass sound barrier. Do you have other suggestions? Please let us know!

Speaking of outreach, we also have the **Shop on the Corner**, with many incredible servants of Christ reaching out to the community at large to organize and sell donations. This ministry continues to grow and thrive, and its income supports many charities in northern New Mexico and urgent needs worldwide as they arise. Please also consider the **Altar Guild** and the **Kitchen Team**, which serves at special events.

Do you like to travel? You might enjoy joining the **House of Hope** team, which hosts fundraisers and builds houses annually in Juárez, Mexico. And our **Children's Christmas Bazaar** is back this year! Many thanks to Mary Yamada for spearheading this annual community event to bring Christmas shopping back to children. As a volunteer, you get to be a wrapper, serve cookies to waiting parents, or guide children through their choices of gifts for their family and friends.

TOTH is always looking for more **Ushers, Servers, and Prayers of the People readers** (we are no longer using our cellphones to read online prayers aloud). The more volunteers we have, the eas

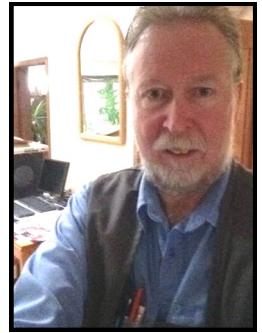
*(Continued on page 15)*

# FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

## Our own little worlds!

Huh? Yeah, even the best of us can get distracted and set things aside.

It happens to me, it is probably happening to you. I like to think we each aspire to the lofty goals of family, community, and work with church somewhere among those influencing two or more, at least a little. My related family is distant so work and church is a lot of my day. I like my work and excel, although managing the business of that takes a lot of my time. Community gets some of my time in between other things but I offer time in service to our church, though mostly when you are not watching. (hmmm where was I heading when I started writing. Oh, yeah distraction.)



Writing this each month is something I look forward to but, as far as the deadlines which spring upon me, there are always some distractions that ultimately delay my actually completing the task. Even now, at this hour of my sleep, something attempts to distract. (Stay with me, I am leading up to making some sort of point.) I have lists and say to myself “maybe I can do that today”. So it likely also is with you readers. You have seen my (our?) pleas for volunteer help at our church and probably have thought “that would be a good thing to do” but one or more of those other important things is/are present in your thoughts also and then—poof! That church thing is relegated. This is a common problem that could be worthy of deeper thought toward ab-solutions.

Well you have stayed with me this far as I wax pathetic so I promise this will take just a little longer and then you can return to your otherly scheduled program.

Projects: Outside the church you have seen painting progress, probably. More scraping and painting should be done yet in areas we had not asked the contractor to take care of. Inside the church there are some cracks that we would like to have worked on. I could set you up with a razor knife to get the loose material removed and then fill them with caulk and a putty knife. There are a few wish lists of other items, mostly simple but needing additional hands. If you are interested in something more detailed, I am looking for someone skilled at fine wood-working for a project which will hide the wires and cables along the walls at the back of the church but, if you just want to swing a hammer, there are plans and need for rough carpentry also. So if you have a hankering in would [wood? Ed.], please consider following along on those. Are there any ones wishing to howl at the moon? That Butterfly Bush is trying to take over the sidewalk but it should be trimmed at night when the bees are a-sleeping. Have you ever thought you would like to learn about installing Landscape Lighting? Some opportunities are available and this could be done during daylight. Maybe Pete and Brad could enjoy having help bagging leaves and pine needles in the gutters and on the roofs. Maybe Richard would like to have you join in on the light bulb plan for the Sanctuary? Maybe I would be over-joyed to have you help me finish the restroom door motor? If wishes were Horses, we would need a crew to follow along behind them.

Well I have filled a page. I hope I have filled your mind with inspiration. Rather than the thought of that Horse thing.

Your Junior Warden  
Mark Hartman

- However, 10% may not be a lot to someone in a higher income bracket but, to someone who is having trouble making ends meet, it can feel like an insurmountable goal. I know for me, tithing was much harder when I was just out of college than it is now. So prayerful discernment and consideration need to be involved in determining what one can give.
- Even if giving 10% is beyond one's reach, percentage giving can be very helpful because it takes the guesswork out of figuring out how much to give. For example, let's say someone is just starting out and bases their pledge on 5% of their income. If their income changes, their pledge would change too. I had friends who, early in their marriage, decided they would start out at 5% and add 10% of that amount each year. They promised God they would give that much unless they couldn't feed their children that week. By the time I knew them, fifty years later, they said there had never been a time when they couldn't keep up their end of the bargain. God was faithful and so were they.
- I've been in situations where lay people in leadership positions in the church fell on hard times. They were really nervous about pledging, but I encouraged them to pledge an achievable amount, even if it were one they would normally consider inconsequential, because it was a sign of faith and commitment. And guess what? Not a single one of them ever regretted it!
- Giving should be consequential. I typically have given up some things that I might like to have for myself in order to practice generous giving. It doesn't have to hurt, but it should be noticeable.
- The Church is not just another charity. Do I give to charitable causes and organizations? You betcha! I sent my first donation (from birthday money) off to PBS when I was six years old because I loved Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street. But the Church, being the living body of Christ and my primary community, gets the lion's share of what I give.
- What happens to the money we pledge? It goes to support the operating budget of TOTH - essentially our day-to-day expenses.
- Who decides how much we spend on things? That's the Vestry. The Vestry is our church board, elected by members of the congregation, to represent them in the governance of the church each year. The Rector may advise the Vestry about spending, and the staff has input about what is needed, but it is the Vestry - your fellow parishioners - who "hold the purse strings."
- How much of an average pledge goes beyond TOTH? I don't know what the average pledge is here, but I do know that Diocese of the Rio Grande only asks for 10% from us a parish - and that's the lowest amount of any diocese I've ever been a part of. Also, The Episcopal Church (aka the "church-wide body") asks for 15% from our diocese, and that means the percentage of The Episcopal Church budget that comes from TOTH is *VERY* minor.
- TOTH is part of a denomination that follows traditional church structure - one that goes back nearly 2000 years. Withholding giving from a parish's operating budget (i.e., what pledges support) because we don't want it to go to the diocese is really shooting ourselves in the foot. We are the diocese and they are us. Sue Ellen Kelly's funeral with its attendees from all over the diocese is an excellent example of that.
- Likewise, not pledging to support the budget of our local congregation because we don't like everything that happens at the national/international level is the same. Such a small percentage gets that far, that it doesn't make sense to withhold support from the community that means so much to us.
- What about special gifts? Those are important, and they matter but, as I said in my sermon, we still have to pay our day-to-day bills. And, frankly, it's the day-to-day operations of the church that make all of the special things possible.
- Does God really love a cheerful giver? I believe so. One of the classic descriptions of the work of the Trinity holds that it was the vast outpouring of love that passed between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that led to the creation of our world. God does not need anything from us to be God, and yet God's grace and favor is always with us, underserved and unearned. And that selfless love is embodied in the Incarnation, death and resurrection, and in the sending of the Holy Spirit. No matter what we do, we can never be or do enough to earn those gifts and, yet, God continuously chooses to gift us with his love. How we choose to respond to the gifting is up to us.

## Support for Wildfire Relief on Maui by Maggie Moore

Have you been as horrified by the aftermath of the fire on Maui as I am? It seems that every day the losses pile higher and higher. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina, a church that stood for over 150 years, burned to the ground yet is posting messages of hope on its Facebook page. As a church whose members lost homes in the Cerro Grande Fire, Trinity on the Hill has a connection with Holy Innocents.

I was thrilled to hear that the wonderful volunteers at Shop on the Corner have pledged to send \$2000 to Maui for relief efforts. I think as a church family, we can do even more.

There will be such an opportunity to increase our support to this cause on **Sunday, September 10**. On that Sunday, all loose cash and undesignated funds collected in the offering plate at both services will be contributed to the fire relief efforts. I also invite churchgoers that day to bring generous checks to add to TOTH's offering. Checks can be made out to **Episcopal Relief & Development**. Please put *Maui* in the memo line. Alternatively, tech-savvy donors may donate online at <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/maui-wildfire-2023>.

I was not living in Los Alamos during the Cerro Grande fire in 2000. However, I do clearly remember watching its images on the news and being amazed at the generosity that humans showed each other in the wake of that disaster. Goodness really does make itself known in the face of tragedy. Thank you in advance for participating in this opportunity to shine that same light over the Pacific to our brothers and sisters on Maui.

[Also see next page for another way you can help. Ed.]

### ***For the record: August 2023***

*Birth:* Benedict William Sauppé, August 1, 2023  
 Isabelle Barbara Roberts, August 20, 2023 (parents Erin (Burr) Roberts and Eric Roberts, grandparents Mother Lynn Finnegan and Tom Burr)

*Baptism:* Benedict William Sauppé, August 20, 2023





## PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

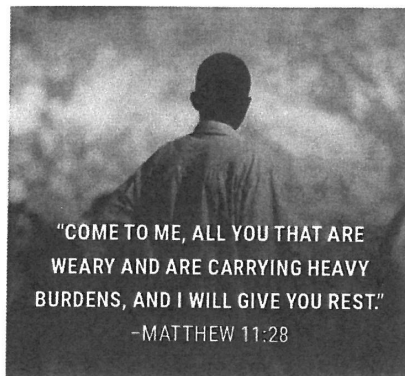
### Support the Hawai'i Fire Response

High winds from Hurricane Dora and drought conditions combined to accelerate the growth of brush fires that devastated the Lahaina community in Hawai'i. Episcopal Relief & Development is in contact with the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i in the wake of wildfires that have killed many people and displaced hundreds of families on Maui.

To make a donation, please fill out the coupon below and mail it in with your check or credit card information.

Thank you for your compassion and prayers. With your partnership, we are Working Together for Lasting Change.

For 80+ years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been collaborating closely alongside communities and our Anglican partners to respond to **disasters** and carry out long-term development strategies in three key priority areas, **Women, Children and Climate**, to help alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, respond to disasters, promote health and strengthen communities.



We provide emergency and long-term support for those who are impacted so they can make full and sustained recoveries – as well as resources and training to help people prepare for the next disaster.



Visit [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) to learn more about our programs for women, children, and climate.

### ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT TO THE DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500  
☐ \$1,000    ☐ \$2,500    ☐ \$5,000    ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts are tax-deductible.*  
 B123-3

I would like to donate by credit card.

Please charge my gift to:

☐ VISA    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ AMEX    ☐ Discover

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Episcopal Relief & Development**  
 Mail to: P.O. Box 7058  
 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058



## Trinity on the Hill Serves Post-Oppenheimer Los Alamos

By Christine Havens (adapted from *The Living Church* magazine, August 17, 2023).



“Oppenheimer”, Christopher Nolan’s highly acclaimed blockbuster, is an intense experience, a grand portrayal of the Manhattan Project’s leader. When the movie ends, it might be easy to think that’s where the story ends, to let the notoriety of the work and its consequences be the last word. But of course, it’s not. Los Alamos continues as a community and the Los Alamos National Laboratory has greatly expanded its role.

As a part of that community, Trinity on the Hill, the only Episcopal parish on the mesa, has a number of ties to the movie and to the real events and people that the movie depicts. The church’s foundations go back to the Manhattan Project; many parishioners work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and at least two of them worked as extras on the film. They’re also concerned with how the film is influencing perception of the people and events, both past and present.

According to parish histories written in 1954 and 2004, “Trinity on the Hill had its beginning in the work of the Rev. C.J. Kinsolving III ... and of Army Chaplain Matthew H. Imre,” both of whom “conducted services for the small group of Episcopalians employed on the Project.” They initially worshiped in what was called the “Big House,” which was a part of the Los Alamos Ranch School. Kinsolving later served as Bishop of New Mexico and Southwest Texas (now the Diocese of the Rio Grande) from 1956 to 1972.

In 1949, a steering commission chose the parish’s name. The Rev. Mary Ann Hill, rector of Trinity since May, adds that Norris Bradbury, Oppenheimer’s successor, helped establish the parish.

Did the church have any connection with Trinity as the test codename? When Hill suggested that possibility, “another priest who has lived here a long time took offense.” Hill added that the “church is also on Trinity Drive, so that may be part of how it got its name, but of course I’m sure the road *did* get its name from the test site.”

Trinity draws on the gifts of its members to form a strong Christian community whose mission is, as Hill stressed, “to be a force for good.” Trinity’s chapel stays open overnight for folks who need temporary shelter, and the building is often used by the larger community. Los Alamos is a company town — 70 to 80 percent of the population works for the lab, and Hill loves the nerdy aspect of her congregation (her license plate is Luke Skywalker’s call sign, Red 5). She said the church has “a high degree of Ph.D.s,” which, among other things, makes for interesting comments on her sermons; as academics, they want to explore her sources.

One such parishioner is Jeffrey Favorite, who is a nuclear engineer. He has been at the lab for 25 years now; his work involves radiation transport applications, which he explains as studying gamma rays and neutrons to learn the effects of radiation. Favorite is a longtime member of Trinity on the Hill, having joined soon after his arrival in Los Alamos.

(Continued on page 8)

He's served in many leadership roles, including vestry member, finance committee chair, treasurer, Sunday school teacher, and more. He says that not only is he a member of the town's local theater (which originated during the Manhattan Project) but also a professional dramatic storyteller, presenting the Gospel of Mark for audiences regularly.

So it seems only natural that Favorite responded to the second "Oppenheimer" casting call for extras — "*Everybody* responded." He was hired as an extra for the Senate confirmation hearings scenes, in which Lewis Strauss, played by Robert Downey Jr., is being considered as Eisenhower's Secretary of Commerce. The enthusiasm in his voice, as he spoke of his time on the set in March 2022, was palpable and contagious.

His official role was "Senate Observer." He can be seen on screen as a group of men standing in the background behind a seated Strauss. He's also on screen as a photographer. One of the highlights, Favorite says, was sitting next to Alden Ehrenreich for some of the shots, though those ended up being cut. He noted that the actor was reading *Anna Karenina* while on the set.

One of the points the nuclear engineer stressed is that "everyone in town has some connection to the movie, so I'm not unique in this at all — it's a community thing." When he and his family watch, "it's not just me we are looking for; it's many of our friends."

John Singleton is a British scientist who "came to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory's Los Alamos campus for a change [getting back to hands-on science] and [unexpectedly] stayed." During his time at Trinity, he directed and accompanied the youth and Evensong choirs, among other ministries.

Singleton tells intriguing stories of his conversations with the "old ones," as he calls them, folks who lived on the hill as part of the original Manhattan Project community. One of his several disappointments is that Nolan's film doesn't do justice to the reality of life there — the "frenetic" pace at which they all worked, the crowded conditions, and the partying that went on. Singleton said one of the old ones told him it reminded him of Tolkien's Mordor at times.

Hill, Favorite, and Singleton all emphasized the sense of judgment inherent in "Oppenheimer". Their consensus is that the issue of nuclear weapons is more complicated than as expressed in the movie. Hill says that while she would love for all such weapons to be destroyed, she holds a pragmatic view that they are part of our broken world, keeping it safe from massive aggression.

Singleton asks viewers not to be too hasty to criticize the scientists who were "driven by an aspect of revenge" in their race to make the bomb, who wanted to see "Berlin as a pool of molten rock with Hitler in the middle." Many of them lost family members in Nazi concentration camps, and that desire helped allay their pain.

All three pointed out the current work happening at the lab, which is devoted to nonproliferation of more weapons, to "stockpile stewardship" (making sure that what does exist is safe); and to other projects that lead toward more sustainable energy sources and ways of living. John and his team won an R&D award last year for work on communications antennas that would assist internet access in rural places.

"Oppenheimer" is a cultural phenomenon that will, for a while longer, generate conversations about the development and use of nuclear weapons and about the complicated man who led the work in the United States. Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church, however, will carry on the stories of those, past and present, who are tied to the Los Alamos community, continuing in their mission to be a force for good.



## Oppenheimer's secret city is a shrine to the Manhattan Project

*A tiny town in New Mexico is proud to be the place the bomb was invented*

(Adapted from *The Economist*, July 24, 2023)

Walk around the old historic center of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and J. Robert Oppenheimer greets you at every turn. The local event center [SALA, ed.], which hosted an Oppenheimer festival to celebrate the release of Christopher Nolan's new film about the father of the atomic bomb—is just off Oppenheimer Drive. A bronze statue of Oppenheimer, dapper hat and pipe included, stands on a street corner. The local pub offers Oppenheimer trivia. To pay homage to the “Trinity test” detonation of Oppenheimer's bomb in the New Mexican desert, there is Trinity Drive, Trinity Urgent Care and **Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church**.

When Oppenheimer was recruited to run the Manhattan Project in 1942, he chose to build his laboratories in Los Alamos. The site, in the government's view, was an ideal place for bomb-building. The desert mesas and ponderosa pine forests offered solitude and secrecy. But Oppenheimer also had a personal reason for picking the Land of Enchantment. Early in Mr. Nolan's film, Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) admits to being homesick for New Mexico, where he and his brother owned a ranch. “When I was a kid”, he says, “I thought if I could find a way to mix physics and New Mexico, my life would be perfect.”

The most notable thing about the town, apart from its history and vistas, is that it is home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the successor to Oppenheimer's science campus, where research on nuclear weapons continues. But the release of Mr. Nolan's film has residents rolling out the red carpet. Tourism is surging. Wendy Berhman, who runs the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, says visitor numbers have more than doubled since last year.

Locals are still starstruck, even a year after Hollywood's glitterati descended on their stretch of desert. “I believe I was there when Nolan decided to film in the Oppenheimer house,” says Leslie Linke of the Los Alamos Historical Society. “I could see it in his eyes.”

Mr. Nolan's film dwells on Oppenheimer's internal battle between his relentless pursuit of scientific inquiry and his moral qualms about the lethal purpose of his lab's invention. Yet Los Alamos's shrines to the Manhattan Project feel more celebratory than somber. Plaques around town salute the scientists whose work “ended world war two” and “deterred global conflict”. A re-examination of Oppenheimer's legacy is slowly taking place, however. Posters in the visitor center mention the Hispanic homesteaders and tribes that were forced off their land so the government could build Oppenheimer's secret city. New Mexicans exposed to radiation from the Trinity test, known as “Downwinders”, say their health was sacrificed for America's atomic advantage.

Perhaps Los Alamos's newfound fame will hasten that retelling. But for now, the town is all Oppenheimer, all the time. “Robert built that place,” says Lewis Strauss (Robert Downey, Jr.), the film's eventual villain. “He was founder, mayor and sheriff, all rolled into one.”



Photos from Margaret-Mary and Josh's baby shower and Sue Ellen Kelly's funeral reception, including a Generations "reunion". How many of these faces do you remember?

Photos: Lisa Rothrock



## Trinity Tidings

A newsletter of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

The Rev. Mary Ann Hill, Rector  
(505) 662-5107 / (918) 894-3930  
momaryannhill@gmail.com

The Rev. Laurie Triplett, Priest Associate  
3900 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
(505) 662-5107; [admin@latoth.org](mailto: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 October, 2023. Submission deadline: Friday, September 29, 2023.**

Submit electronically to [admin@latoth.org](mailto:admin@latoth.org)

## Court Appointed Special Advocates—CASA First

All children deserve to be safe, loved, and have hope for their futures. CASA First (Court Appointed Special Advocates, First Judicial District) recruits, trains and supports passionate Court Appointed Volunteer Advocates, “CASAs”, who are a voice in and out of court for infants, children and youth from Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties (the First Judicial District), who are currently in foster care.

“No question my CASA child fared better with a CASA because there were several instances where he’d been forgotten and fell between the cracks,” one of our Volunteer Advocates said about her experience as a CASA. This is a sentiment echoed by volunteers across our organization: 90% of our CASAs report their child is safer due to their advocacy. We’re happy to announce that we’ve recently expanded and launched a new program, Abrigo Advocates, where any trauma-impacted infant, child or youth from the counties we serve can now be matched with an advocate.

While our Court Appointed Special Advocates work with children and youth who are actively involved in the court system, the Abrigo program allows us to expand our reach in the community beyond those in foster care. Abrigos are advocates for youth who have been system-involved in the past or have suffered trauma and are in need of support. Abrigos are trauma-informed, pairing case manager-adjacent services with deeply caring support. Trauma never affects just one person, and so we give our Abrigos the training and tools to provide a wrap-around service that includes children, families, young adults, caregivers, and other figures in youths' lives.

Volunteers are provided with consistent support and access to resources and information. CASA First’s programs are highly monitored through the staff so that all the volunteers, children, and youth we work with feel supported. Abrigo volunteers will be paired with a child, youth, or young adult within the First Judicial District. They will provide at-home check-ins, access to additional resources or supplies, support to the family as a whole, transportation to appointments or events, and will have the opportunity to take the client and/or family out and about for some relaxing fun. The Abrigo program is client driven and directed. While the program is new and growing in our community, we are quickly seeing the positive impact of having Abrigo Advocates as a resource in our community.

We are always in need of more volunteers to be a compassionate and dedicated presence for the children and youth in our community. If this is something you might be interested in, or want to learn more, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jessica Henderson, via email at [jessica@casafirst.org](mailto:jessica@casafirst.org), phone at 505-428-6066 or directly at [www.casafirst.org](http://www.casafirst.org).

[See page 14 for photos of current volunteers.]

### CASA FIRST ABRIGO ADVOCATES



Abrigo:  
where one is sheltered from elements or harm

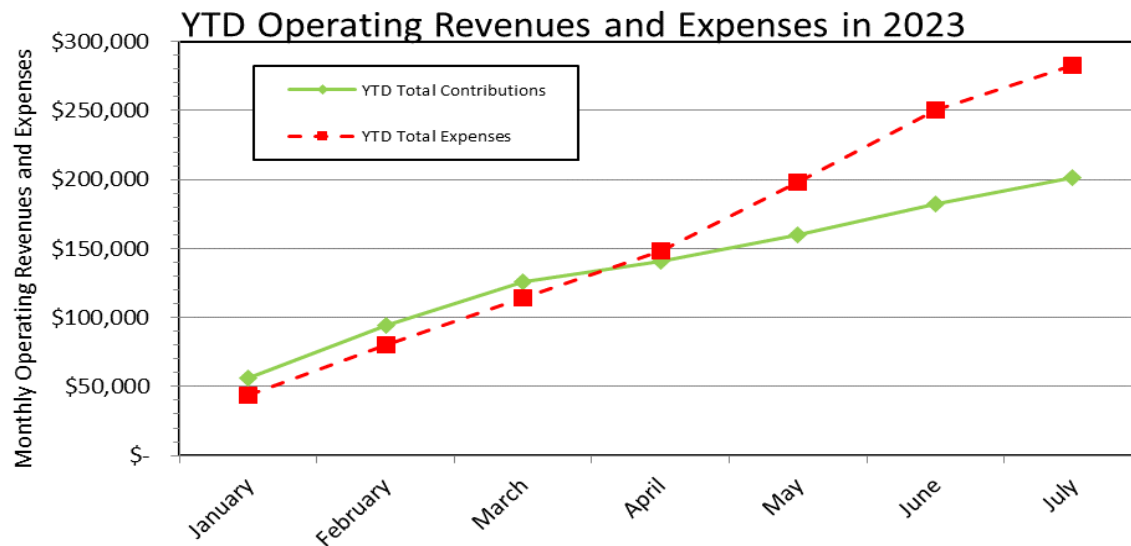
**Abrigo Advocates** is a new program from CASA First to connect trauma-impacted infants, children, or youth from Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, or Los Alamos Counties with a highly trained and dedicated advocate.

CASA First Judicial District  
466 W. San Francisco St., Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505-820-1500 | [www.casafirst.org](http://www.casafirst.org)

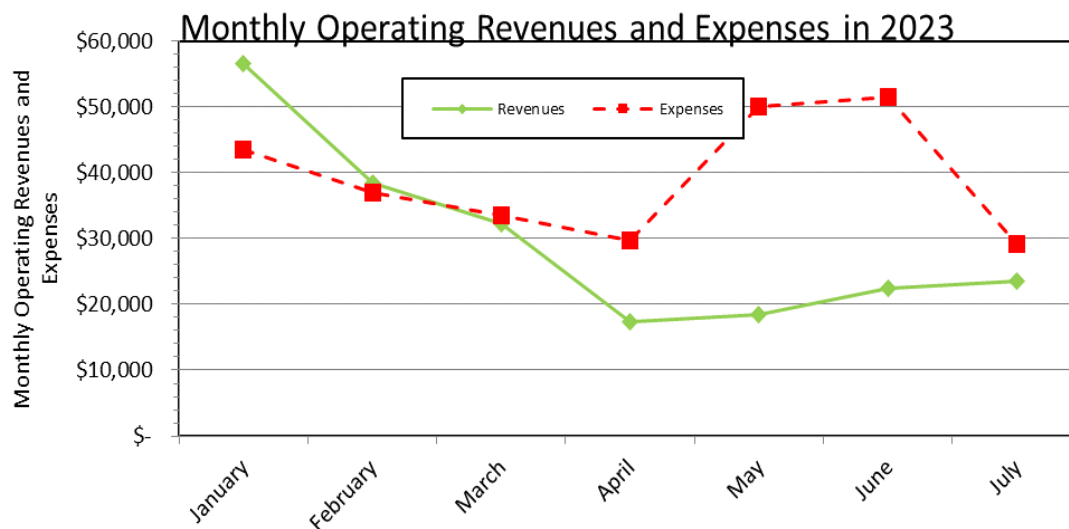
## TOTH July Financial Status

Greetings again from your friendly neighborhood Treasurer. I am coming to you again to with an update on this year's finances. Our annual revenue continues to fall short of our expenses. We are seeing a typical revenue slump this summer that most churches see, I am hopeful we can make up the gap by the end of the year.

This year we have spent \$81,241 more than we have brought in. We are not in dire straits; worst case scenario, we can take money out of our restricted budgets to cover the deficit.



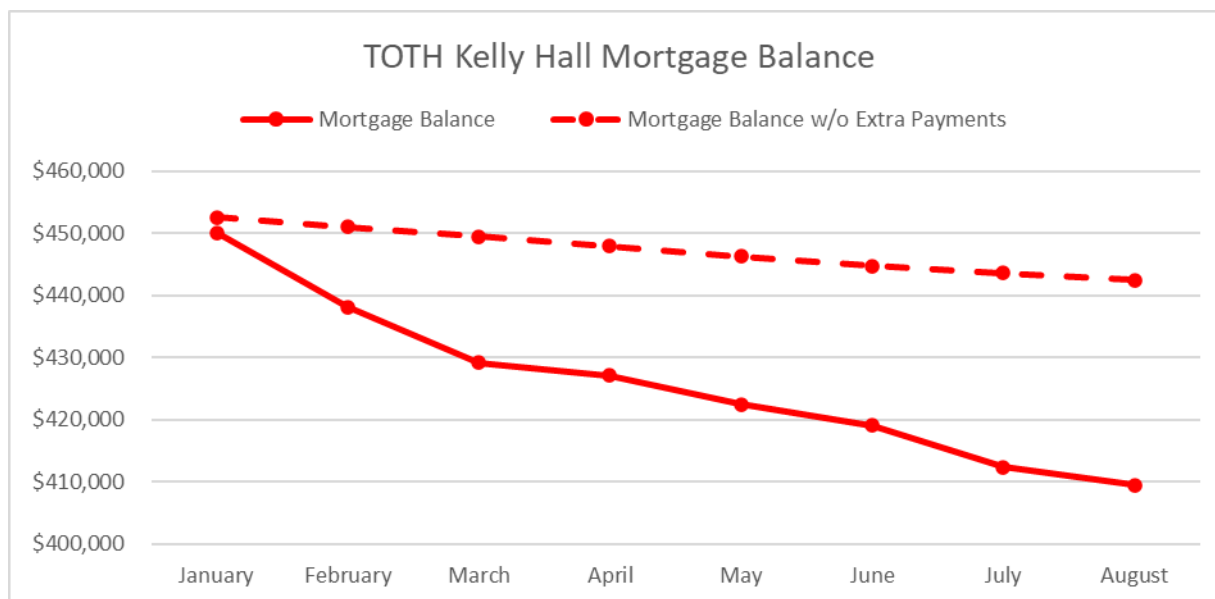
You can see our expenses this month dropped which has helped but we still have not seen revenues exceed expenses since February.



(Continued on page 13)

*Continued from page 12*

Now for the good news. The Kelly Hall mortgage continues to be paid off and with the August statement is at \$409,517. I expect we will drop below \$400,000 this year.



From the Editor:

Dear TOTH family,

Well, the end of summer has truly come for us in the office: We will be returning to our usual office hours, starting Monday, September 5 (the day after Labor Day). That means that the office opening hours will once again be Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm without a lunch time closure. I for one have enjoyed our shorter workday but I knew it wouldn't last forever!

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Trinity Tidings* and, as always, if there's anything you would particularly like to see in this monthly newsletter, please either let me know or—better still—write it!

Best wishes,

Claire

admin@latoth.org / 505-662-5107



## Court Appointed Special Advocates—CASA First (cont. from page 11)

### WHO ARE CASA FIRST'S ABRIGO ADVOCATES?

Abrigo Advocates are volunteers who are matched with an infant, child or youth who have been impacted by trauma, are system-involved, or are in need of an advocate. Abridgos, through a consistent and supportive relationship, will help children and youth find the resources and services they need, assist with practical life functions, create community connections and more. Our goal is to meet our youth or child where they are and guide them accordingly.

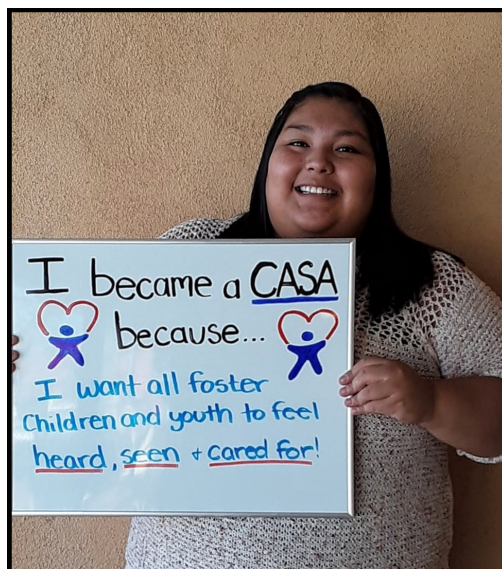
If you are 21 or older and want to ensure youths' wellbeing and success, please reach out and learn how to be trained as an CASA First Abrigo Advocate.

### OUR MISSION

The mission of CASA, First Judicial District is to support and promote volunteer advocacy so that infants, children and youth from Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Los Alamos Counties who are trauma-impacted or system-involved can be safe, have permanent connections, and the opportunity to thrive.

### MAKE A REFERRAL

To make a referral or request an advocate, please contact Jessica Henderson at [jessica@casafirst.org](mailto:jessica@casafirst.org) or 505-820-1500.



*(continued from page 2)*

ier it is to work around individual schedules. The work is so rewarding, and we get to involve the kids in what we do at the altar and for the church. I have seen how their connection with and involvement in our liturgy makes their faith more personal, alive, and meaningful.

Please contact the office if you wish to participate in the **Confidential Prayer Chain**. Prayer requests are kept strictly confidential, and I have seen many miracles that result. We all need a place to ask for prayers when we are hurting, whether in body, mind, spirit, or soul. Many of us may have a gift or calling for praying for those in need.

The **Buildings and Grounds** Committee always needs volunteers. They meet every 2 months (weather and season permitting) for a few work hours to select from a list of projects. Their next “meeting” is scheduled for Saturday, September 9. Please send me an email if you would be interested in contributing. Our building and grounds are always in need of help.

These ministries are just a few of the many that work to support our church. One thing that brought me to this church to begin with was that, unlike some churches that have their own staff and council, this church needs US to run it. All of us depend on each other to be a part of the body of Christ and to be able to function as a whole, so please prayerfully consider joining us.

Blessings,  
Lisa Rothrock  
Senior Warden

*Romans 12:4-6. ... we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body.*

### TIDBITS FROM THE NURSERY

The nursery is open every Sunday, 8 am to noon, and welcomes children between the ages of 0-5. Please feel free to stop by and take a look around!

I am also looking for young people aged 12 or older who might be interested in working in the nursery! If you know of someone who might be interested please let them know! There are only a few requirements, but the most important one is you must love kids!!

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to stop by or call me at 505.490.2280.

Blessings,  
Wendy Strain

## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

September 2023

Date	Time	Acolytes	LEM/LR	Prayers of the People, 10:30	Media Team 10:30	Usher 10:30	Altar Guild
Sept. 3	8:00	Joe Cox	Joe Cox				Marilyn and Paul Lisowski Andy and Linda Light
	10:30	Ben Foley, Server, Susan Sprake, Crucifer	Renee Roybal Lynn Godwin	Anne Huysman	Bill/Mark	D. Giovanielli	
Sept. 10	8:00	Luke Favorite	Rozelle Wright				Rozelle and Brad Wright Kathy and Pete Peterson
	10:30	Susan Sprake, Server, Peter Maginot, Crucifer Josh and Anna Moore, TBs	Linda Light Susan Sprake	Marilyn Lisowski	Richard/ Rachel	Andy Light	
Sept. 17	8:00	Richard Triplett	Rozelle Wright				Renee Roybal Valarie Prestwood Karen Humphrey
	10:30	Ben Foley, Server Josh Moore, Crucifer Cece Gulsby, River Yamada, TBs	Andy Light Renee Roybal	Nancy Coombs	Michelangelo/ Robin	Bill Godwin	
Sept. 24	8:00	Ben Schilling	Kay Dreamtrader				Ellie Giovanielli Marybeth Stephens Jo Moore Susannah Smith
	10:30	Isabella Stephens, Server River Yamada, Crucifer Anna Moore, TB Gregory Maginot, TB	Sam McRae Joe Cox	Linda Light	Nancy/Bill	Maggie Moore	



### 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](http://www.facebook.com/trinityoth)
- **Compline**, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Prayers by candle-light, with plainsong. All welcome!

### 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](mailto:admin@latoth.org) for more information)

### Wednesdays:

- **Service of Healing**, 12:30 pm in St. Athanasius Chapel. In-person and Zoom.

### Thursdays:

- **Men's Group**, 7:30 am, Sherrill Hall
- **Book and Bible Study**, 12 noon, Library

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Do you love animals? Would you like to help organize this year's pet blessing?

It would be great to be back out at Ashley Pond and to invite our friends and neighbors to join us this year. Typically, the Blessing of the Animals takes place near St. Francis Day in early October. If you are interested in helping organize this event (and there are many kinds of ways to help), please speak to or email Mother Mary Ann at [momaryann@gmail.com](mailto:momaryann@gmail.com).

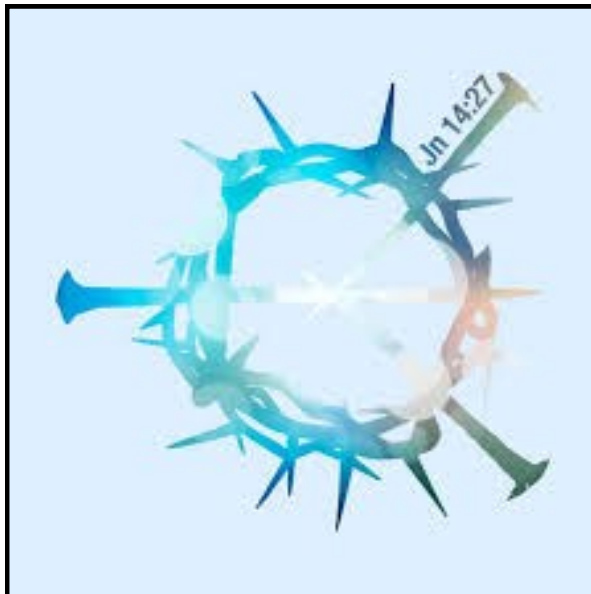


Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Return Service Requested



Trinity Tidings  
September 2023