February 2024

A Newsletter of Trinity On The Hill, Episcopal Church :: Los Alamos, NM Online-only Edition, vol. 33



Trinity Tidings

From the Rector:



[Reprinted from the 2023 TOTH Annual Report]

It's been about 8 months since I arrived in Los Alamos. Normally, the transition time for a new Rector takes about four to six weeks. This one lasted several months and, at least at home and in my office, isn't completely over. But, regardless, I am very glad to be here.

Like all churches, Trinity on the Hill has been through a lot in recent years, even more so if we take into account the clergy transition. "Getting back to normal" after Covid has taken a bit longer here, but it's happening.

In the last 8 months, we have resumed coffee hour, brought in Margaret-Mary Sauppé as our permanent Organist/Choirmaster, doubled our children's Sunday School classes (more about that below), brought back some of our earlier celebrations, such as Lessons and Carols and the Epiphany service and dinner. Outreach efforts, such as the Shop on the Corner and the Children's Christmas Bazaar, were incredibly successful last year. At our visitation from Bishop Hunn in November, five members were received or confirmed. We have had several new members join TOTH over the last few months, and we have had to say goodbye to some old friends who were relocating or who passed away.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a pastoral visit with Don and Lorrie Davidson. We were chatting about the church they attended in the 1950s in Wheaton, Illinois. Trinity (they seem to collect churches with that name) is a parish with which I'm familiar. Don served as the assistant Sunday School superintendent back in the day, and told me about a fire drill they held. I was surprised that that was "a thing," so I asked "How *many* children were in your Sunday School?" He said, "About 550." *550!* I can remember when I first taught Sunday school 35 years ago, having 5 classes with about 30 children, and that was considered a good size.

"Times have changed" may be one of the biggest understatements we can make these days. The rapidity of change in our lives can be dizzying at times. And change affects the Church as well. Changing demographics, times of transition, global pandemic, and economic challenges have affected the Church at large and at home. And Trinity on the Hill is no stranger to change. Many of the things that affect us are universal and affect the Church everywhere.

Fortunately for us, Los Alamos is an a-typical community. This is still a place where elementary aged children can go about town unaccompanied. Many people leave their cars and homes unlocked. The whole town comes out for parades and concerts. Practically speaking for the church, that means that we have less competition for people's attention on Sunday mornings. And, given the size

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Weekly Worship Schedule Sunday 8 am: Rite I Holy Eucharist

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

<u>Wednesday</u> 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 <u>www.latoth.org</u> <u>admin@latoth.org</u> 505-662-5107

FROM THE RETIRING SENIOR WARDEN

[Reprinted from the 2023 TOTH Annual Report]

This year has been full of challenges, both positive and negative. So let's talk about the most positive first. We have Mother Mary Ann Hill! And she now has a home to call her own. We are so blessed to have this special woman to guide us in the vision that God has for our congregation, and we could not be in better hands. Many thanks to the Search Committee (especially to Bill Godwin for his excellent leadership), the Vestry, and those parishioners who helped us in our selection.

And now for a discouraging word. Our finances have not recovered nearly enough, and at the end of the year, we had a deficit of well over \$100,000 in



our operating budget. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider increasing your pledge this year or making an additional one-time donation.

We also understand that some families cannot comfortably donate financially. Again, WE NEED YOUR HELP! The same dedicated volunteers continue to volunteer until many are burnt out. You can bring new life to our volunteers by being one yourself. Please consider any way that you can contribute your time where it is most needed and you feel most called. Many ministries are mentioned in this report, but a full list can be obtained through the office. Many thanks to our Stewardship Program leaders, Paul and Marilyn Lisowski, and our finance leaders, Leni Moore (Treasurer) and Linda Light. Feel free to address any questions or concerns you may have to them or to any Vestry member. Thank you!

At our Vestry meeting in January, voters elected three new Vestry members: Kay Dreamtrader, Mary Ogle, and Isabella Stephens. Lisa Rothrock agreed to serve as Senior Warden, and Mark Hartman agreed to serve as Junior Warden.

Early in 2023, the Vestry removed the church's masking requirements. Masking is of course still an option but is no longer required. This decision brought our church one step further in our Covid recovery progress.

In May we bade farewell to Father Raymond Raney, who was our rock and compass as we negotiated the selection path in finding our new Rector, while also tending to all the ongoing needs of our congregation.

Mother Mary Ann was officially installed as our Rector by Bishop Hunn on November 18. Ben Foley and Rachel Greenwood were confirmed and Christy O'Brien, Laurie Glascock, and Rob Baran were received. Four funerals were held in 2023, for James Crocker, Sue Ellen Kelly, Mary Cunningham, and TK Thompson, and new life was celebrated with Margaret-Mary Sauppé's baby shower. All of these events (and more) required the dedication and devotion of multiple ministries, including our fabulous kitchen staff and altar guild!

The Vestry gratefully accepted the gifts of a new coffee maker and a new dishwasher from Judy Crocker. Margaret-Mary was hired as our new organist and director of the Chancel Choir, after she acquired her Doctoral degree. While Margaret-Mary was on maternity leave, Nelly Case was gracious enough to fill in as director and organist, and Brian Huysman filled in on piano.

Our Young Families ministry has thrived under the leadership of Maggie Moore, Kelli Maginot, Zandrea Glenn, and Keith Stephens. We now have two Sunday school classes for all the children who participate, and children's sermons continue to become more animated and fun for all.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Hello! I am happy to be back on the Vestry and look forward to serving as your Senior Warden this year. This is an important year for our parish as we continue to build relationships with Mother Mary Ann while she navigates her first year with us. We will continue to rebuild programs or create new ones as we learn the needs of our post-pandemic congregation. We should all consider how we can contribute to Trinity on the Hill to improve our financial situation, as well as how we can give of our time and talents to support the programs, community events, and other wonderful things our church has to offer.



I have been a part of Trinity on the Hill for 26 years. Our church has been through many changes and challenges throughout that time. We are currently facing some challenges, but our parish has had many blessings as well. We are no longer searching for a priest, but are grateful for the time we have had with Mother Mary Ann (and Cuthbert!) so far. Instead of missing some of the community events that we have held in the past, people are stepping up and making them happen again, like the Children's Christmas Bazaar and the Pancake Supper. Others have created events of fellowship and fun for our young families. As we head into this year, let's focus on our blessings and how, with God's help, we can keep our parish growing in love and with the resources necessary to make our people, our programs, and our buildings pathways to deeper relationships with each other and with Christ.

Blessings, Kandice Favorite



MEET OUR SEMINARIAN!

We recently welcomed Rev. Jerome Williams (pictured left), who is joining us for 6 months. Rev. Williams is a Michigan native and holds a MBA from NMHU, as well as a certificate of Theological Studies through the Iona Collaborative. He has lived in NM for 17 years, was ordained a deacon in 2022, and currently works full-time at El Centro Family Health. Jerome, his wife, and their 2 boys live in Ohkay Owingeh.

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN



Once again, it seems like I just did this but maybe you are tired of my sharing that old saw? Well in any case we are heading into another turn around the sun here at Trinity on the Hill; let's make this a good one, if we can. I'll keep this short and sweet so hold still; this won't hurt a bit.

The building seems rather stable, other than whenever the weather may thaw a recent snow and then allow it to run down into a crack in the concrete at our north stairway. This is sort of like the irritation of the rain running down inside the collar of your jacket. Aggravating but inevitable if you don't put up an umbrella. We need an umbrella for that crack. Goteny ideas? Most likely some sort of liquid patch crack filler. The first step will need to be some day when rain is not forecast and then digging out the things that have

been stuffed in there, blowing away the debris and pouring something of low viscosity so it will get down deep in there, filling up the void. OK, enough of that now.

We should have some more of those Happy Work Days. Don't ya think? Or don't you? We could do some fun stuff like fitting taller shelves in the Friday Lunch closet to make better use of that space, or how about building shelves in the Generations closet along with something that looks like a lot of coat hooks on the wall for hanging the audio cables and extension cords that are littered about the room, languishing in a mess of entanglement. Maybe just a light day straightening up the items in the snow blower shed?

Some other things I have not found the time to get done yet: the ropes on the north stairway by Kelly Hall and moving the bags of ice melt around to each of the doors, and hauling the old kitchen appliance away from the south parking lot next to the dumpster. Ya wanna help?

Well, that's 'bout all the fit that's news to print so here you back hear next month, same time, same station.

Mark Hartman Junior Warden

A LENTEN DISCIPLINE OF GRATITUDE

The national United Thank Offering office is offering a special calendar to be used during Lent called "40 Days of Grateful Presence." Each day is a very simple suggestion of what to be grateful for. No giving up anything! Just focusing on God's daily blessings to all of us. It can be followed silently by any individual or shared with your family. Please consider using the calendar which is found on page 6.

Cathy Walters TOTH UTO representative

For the record: January 2024

Baptism: Thomas Jace John Hopkins (January 7)



TRINITY TIDINGS

Continued from page 2

The Children's Christmas Bazaar was back in full swing this year under the leadership of Mary Yamada

and Zandrea Glenn. After a 1-year absence due to the lack of a Chair, this Outreach ministry is another that is again thriving. The same was true of the Fellowship Dinners; more than 32 parishioners participated this past year. Other ministries continuing to flourish include Shop on the Corner, House of Hope, the Confidential Prayer Chain, Buildings and Grounds, and Adult Education. Additional Ushers and Altar Servers would be most welcome.

The Vestry approved a third camera and microphones for the Media Team, which has produced much better recording angles and superior sound (and no more crackling mics!).

This year has been most challenging and rewarding as your Senior Warden, especially anticipating Mother Mary Ann's arrival, and I have truly loved every minute of it. My 3-year Vestry term will conclude following the Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you for letting me serve you and for reaching out to me with issues, questions, and comments. It has been a joy to work with all of you, and I intend to continue as a volunteer within the many ministries available to us all. I am excited to see and support this year's changes in our Vestry leadership and in our church overall. Blessings!

Lisa Rothrock Senior Warden (until January 2024)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope for the future." Jer. 29:11

SAVE THESE DATES!							
Tuesday, February 13	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Kelly Hall, 5:30 pm. Invite your friends!						
Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday Services at 7 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm.						
Thursdays, February 22 through March 21	Ecumenical Lenten Thursdays begin, 6 pm. Join TOTH and other church members at the United Church for a soup supper and classes.						
March 24	Palm Sunday						
March 28	Maundy Thursday						
March 29	Good Friday						
March 31	Easter						



HAPPY EASTER! CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE NEW LIFE YOU SEE AROUND YOU!

Sunday School News from Zandrea Glenn

Children's Sunday School meets every Sunday, unless otherwise noted, from 9:15 - 10:15am. Younger age group meets in Classroom 4. Kids in 3rd grade and up meets in Kelly Hall.



(Left) The kids made a palm tree, built a horse and chariot, and mixed ingredients for oobleck [slime, for the uninitiated. Ed.] to look like mud in the story of Judge Deborah.

(Below) The older and younger Children's Sunday School group combined to learn about Gideon and made paper lanterns for next week's lesson.





The Young Families group met in December to share dinner and decorate the Christmas Tree in Kelly Hall.

(photo: Maggie Moore)

Continued from p. 1

of our community and the number of "transplants," we have the ability to provide community for people who are away from family and friends. We have challenges unique to Los Alamos to be sure, but we also have unique opportunities.

While I can point out the trends that are and will be affecting TOTH, it's hard to know what our "newnormal" will look like. It's clear that in the coming years, we will face some challenges that won't be easy to tackle. We are seeing that now with our budget issues. We may have to engage in some creative and out-of-the -box thinking.

While all of that is true, it is also true that we are a church with deep roots going back nearly two millennia and, thankfully, that provides a firm foundation that undergirds everything else we do. Worship and prayer, Bible study, Christian formation, fellowship, and building relationships; these are the things that make a strong Christian community and provide a springboard for us to have a positive impact on the world around us. As long as we stay rooted in Christ, finding ways to address the challenges we face doesn't have to be such a daunting proposition.

And the good news is that, while we hope to increase our numbers, we have a strong and capable group of people who love and care for Trinity on the Hill. We do need to add more helpers so, if you are not very involved but would like to be, I would be happy to visit with you about that or point you in the direction of someone who can help. As St. Paul said, the body of Christ is made of many members and it takes all of us, working together, to help grow our part of God's kingdom.

I will leave you, as Fr. Raymond did, with a prayer that I have found helpful. It's by Thomas Merton. No matter what happens, I know that we belong to and are held by God. Trusting that gives me confidence in any circumstance. I hope it does for you too.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Mother Mary Ann+



About Shrove Tuesday...

The word "shrove" comes from the old English word "shrive," to give absolution for sins. Traditionally, the days leading up to Ash Wednesday would be a time to go to confession in preparation for Lent. It was also a time when foods that would be given up for Lent would be consumed – like butter and eggs – hence the reason for having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Kelly Hall on February 13 from 5:30-7:00.

About Ash Wednesday...

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives. *Re-turning to God is the work of Lent, and it prepares us for the celebration of Easter.*

Ash Wednesday is one of the two official days for fasting on the church calendar (the other being Good Friday.) Fasting can take various forms, although traditionally it would mean giving up meat and giving up a meal or eating smaller ones.

We encourage you, especially this time of year, to make time for worship, for the support of others, and for the observance of the traditions of the Church.

Join us for services at 7:00 am in the Chapel or at noon and 7:00 pm in the main Church on Wednesday, February 14.

About Lent...

Lent is a time set aside to prepare for Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday, a day of penitence (admitting our past wrongs and re-aligning ourselves with God) and a reminder of our own mortality.

Lent continues for 40 days plus six Sundays. People often give up something or add something to their daily lives during this season. If we are giving something up, it should be done for a greater purpose than simply an exercise in self-discipline. If you choose to give up meat for Lent, you might consider giving the money you save to a charity. If you give up screen time, you might consider spending that extra time in spiritual reading or volunteering.

Just as meaningful can be taking on a spiritual practice. Extra time for prayer, meditation, reading scripture, and praying one of the daily services found in the prayer book are examples of this. If you have trouble settling on something, please feel free to ask our clergy.

Lent ends with Easter, our celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Our observation of Lent is incomplete without a celebration of the Resurrection.

Join us for Ecumenical Lenten Thursdays with other Los Alamos churches from 6:00-8:00 pm at the United Church, starting February 22..

TOTH will provide soup and music on March 14.



Sundays:

- Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8 am, in person only.
- Holy Eucharist Rite II with music at 10:30 am, in person and via Facebook live at <u>www.facebook.com/trinityoth</u>
- **Compline**, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Prayers by candle-light, with plainsong. All welcome!

Tuesdays:

• Women Alive at 7:30 am via Zoom (3rd/5th Tuesdays); in Sherrill Hall (2nd and 4th Tuesdays). Contact Rozelle Wright or Claire Singleton for the link. First Tuesday walks around sunrise, followed by breakfast.

Wednesdays:

• Service of Healing, 12:30 pm in St. Athanasius Chapel. In-person only.

Thursdays:

- Men's Group, 7:30 am, Sherrill Hall
- Book and Bible Study, 11 am, Library

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 Deacon Jerome Williams, Seminarian

3900 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 (505) 662-5107; <u>admin@latoth.org</u>

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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 March. Submission deadline: Monday, February 26, 2024.

Submit electronically to admin@latoth.org

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Altar Guild	Marilyn and Paul Lisowski	Andy and Linda Light	Rozelle and Brad Wright Kathy and Pete Peterson					Renee Roybal Valarie Prestwood	Renee Roybal Valarie Prestwood Karen Humphrey		Ellie Giovanielli Marybeth Stephens Jo Moore Susannah Smith Sarah Rochester	
- Andy		Andy	Kathy		TBD			Rene Valar	Reneo Valar Karer		Ellie Giov Marybeth Jo Moore Susannah Sarah Roc	
Usher 10:30		Damon Giovanielli		Maggie Moore			Maggie Moore		Rick Rothrock		Bill Godwin	
Media Team 10:30		Bill/Rachel		Nancy/ Rachel			Bill/Rick		Richard/Mark		Rick/ Michelangelo	
Prayers of the People, 10:30		Anne Huysman		Nancy Coombs			Anne Huysman		Lisa Rothrock		Linda Light	
LEM/LR	Luke Favorite	Marilyn Lisowski, LEM/LR, Renee Roybal, LEM	Rozelle Wright, LR Richard Triplett, LEM	Lynn Godwin, LEM/LR Lisa Rothrock, LEM	Rozelle Wright, LR Andy Light, LEM	Sam McRae, LEM/LR	Lynn Godwin, LEM Rob Baran, LR	Richard Triplett, LEM Kay Dreamtrader, LR	Susan Sprake, LEM/LR Andy Light, LEM	Rob Baran, LR Ben Schilling, LEM	Lisa Rothrock, LEM/LR Renee Roybal, LEM	
Acolytes	Luke Favorite	Ben Foley, Server Peter Maginot, Crucifer Cece Gulsby, Gregory Maginot, TB	Richard Triplett	Ben Foley, Server Josh Moore, Crucifer Gregory Maginot, Cece Gulsby, TB			Susan Sprake, Crucifer/Server Josh and Anna Moore, TBs	Richard Triplett	Isabella Stephens, Server River Yamada, Crucifer Susan Sprake, Josh Moore, TBs	Ben Schilling	Isabella Stephens, Server River Yamada, Crucifer TBD, TBs	
Time	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	7:00a	12:00	7 pm	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	
Date	Feb. 4		Feb. 11		Feb. 14 Ash Weds			Feb. 18		Feb. 25		

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Return Service Requested



Trinity Tidings February 2024