



Trinity Tidings

From the Rector:

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

In a recent Facebook post, travel writer Rick Steves extolled the virtues of one of his “favorite British experiences” - choral evensong in an English cathedral:

“Evensong — that venerable pillow of musical praise — is one of my favorite British experiences. Meant to mark the transition from

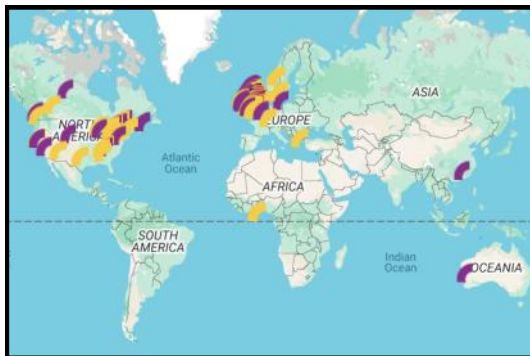
busy day into peaceful evening, this short service — where much of scripture is sung, not spoken — is an Anglican fixture that goes back hundreds of years and is still offered daily by many churches. It’s free, open to all (regardless of faith), and a great way for any traveler to take a break from the bustle of sightseeing, slow down, and connect with England.

It can be powerful, too. Sitting there in the great York Minster, as timeless harmonies filled the cathedral, I realized that I wasn’t just hearing prayers, scripture, or the word of God. I was listening to music in situ: performed in the very place it was originally meant to be heard — and has been for centuries. Whether you’re religious or not, that’s enough to swizzle your soul.”

Evensong, and the wider English choral tradition, doesn’t just happen in cathedrals, but in thousands of parish churches throughout the UK and the Anglican Communion, including here in Los Alamos. Evensong and sung Compline, both services based on the ancient monastic practice of prayer throughout the day and night hours, are offered regularly here at Trinity on the Hill.

Another significant part of this Anglican choral tradition is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. In the weeks following the end of World War I, the chaplain of King’s College Cambridge, Eric Milner-White, introduced a new service that would bring hope in the face of unspeakable loss.

Milner-White served as a chaplain for four years in the trenches — an experience that changed him forever. 23% of members of the college were killed in the war and, at the time of the first Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve, 1918, it was still uncertain who had perished and who might still come home. The bidding prayers of the service reference that in the poignant line: “Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.”



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Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

8 am: Rite I Holy Eucharist

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

6:00 pm Choral Evensong, 1st Sunday
(No Compline)
7:00 pm: Compline

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

admin@latoth.org

505-662-5107

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It was out of this experience that Eric Milner-White was inspired to offer the service of Lessons and Carols as a gift to the city of Cambridge. At the darkest time of the year, it served the twin purposes of grieving those who were never coming home, and bringing hope to the war-weary survivors. Over a century later, Lessons and Carols continues to bring a sense of peace, hope, and comfort to a chaotic and confusing world.

In 1934, Milner-White adapted the original Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols for use at the beginning of the Advent season. Consisting of choral anthems, hymns, readings, and brief prayers, this 45-minute service offers an oasis of calm in the midst of a hectic season. Guests at Trinity on the Hill are welcome to participate in singing hymns, but are also welcome to simply sit and listen if they prefer. After the service, everyone is invited to a reception with mulled wine, (*non-alcoholic*) hot cider, and sweet and savory treats.

Please join us for a **Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent** on Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. Except in December, Choral Evensong is offered on the first Sunday of the month, September through May, at 6:00 p.m. Compline by candlelight is offered the second, third and fourth Sundays at 7:00 pm.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's is broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service on 24 December at 3 pm GMT (8:00 am Mountain Standard Time). The service is also re-broadcast at 1 pm on BBC Radio 3 on Christmas Day, and at various times on the BBC World Service.

In the United States the service is distributed by American Public Media and is broadcast by over 400 radio stations, including Minnesota Public Radio and WQXR in New York. As there is no list of radio stations that are broadcasting the service, it's best to contact your local stations or check their online listings.



CUTHBERT AND FRIENDS



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Hello!

It's hard not to write this with a sense of gratitude as Thanksgiving is just four days away. I'm grateful and excited to be spending this holiday with Jeff and Luke in West Lafayette, Indiana. We will get to see Luke play the big bass drum in his last game of the season. Sadly Sydney won't be able to join us since she'll be working, but she was able to go with us to celebrate Luke's 20th birthday back in October.

At our last vestry meeting, we talked about the recent blessings Trinity on the Hill has received for which I am also grateful. It has been a joy to watch our new nursery attendant, River, build relationships with our youngest Episcopalians. It's also lovely to see him sitting in church services with Wendy when they have some quiet time.

Another blessing was the ministry fair held in November. Isabella will share more details in her article, but it was a joyous afternoon with people visiting and sharing information about their ministries. Many people signed up to participate in ministries that are new to them. The posters were beautiful and the dessert raffle offered many delicious dishes. Thanks to everyone who participated, but especially to Isabella for her enthusiasm and creative ideas to make it a fun and successful ministry fair!

The financial situation of Trinity on the Hill is also a blessing at the moment. We currently have a budget deficit of a little more than \$10,000 which is significantly less than deficits we've experienced in the last few years. This is due to a couple of things, one being the generosity of our parish for which we are grateful. The other is vestry decisions on how we spend money. We still owe about \$263,000 on Kelly Hall which ties up funds from being used in other ways. So, as 2025 soon comes to a close, consider if you can make an end-of-year contribution to the operating budget or to the mortgage on Kelly Hall. Speaking of contributions, please remember to turn in your "Estimate of Giving for 2026." These estimates help us tremendously as we prepare the budget for next year.

As we look ahead to 2026, the vestry will soon be looking for people to fill the positions of our three outgoing members. Serving on the vestry is an important way to serve our church. It's also a great way to learn what it takes for Trinity on the Hill to live into our vision and mission. Plus we have great snacks and chocolate at our meetings! If you are interested in serving on the vestry next year, or want to learn more about this opportunity, please reach out to me, Mother Mary Ann, or another vestry member. Thank you for your consideration to serve in this way.

I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving full of friends, family, yummy food, and new memories, and a blessed Advent season.

In Christ,
Kandice Favorite
Senior Warden



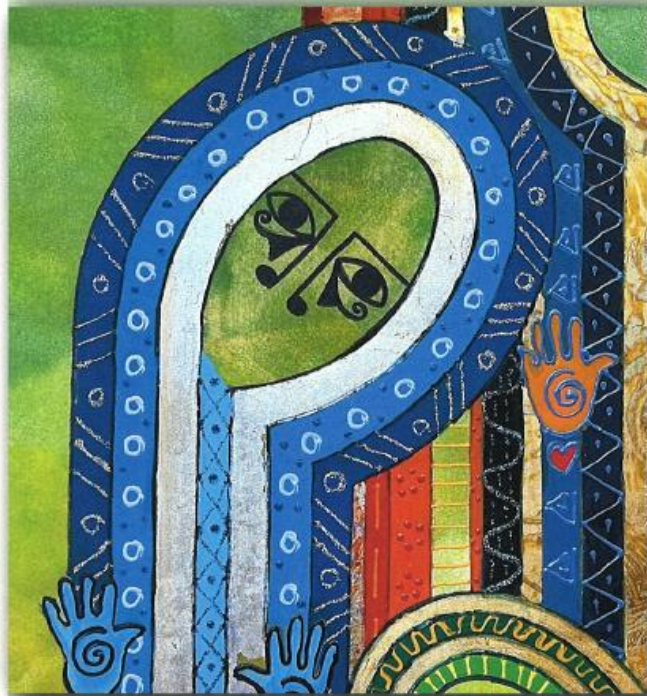
TOTH presents
THE CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
Bazaar
DECEMBER 13

WHERE THE KIDS DO THE SHOPPING

ccb.toth@gmail.com



Music Above and Beyond for Winter



SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE
LINDA RANEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2025–2026
45th Season

Image Credit: Carla Muth (Image used by permission of Mark Muth.)



SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE
LINDA RANEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

ADVENTUROUS PROGRAMMING – PASSIONATE COMMITMENT – SUBLIME SINGING

Our 45th Season ~ Winter 2025 Music Above and Beyond for Winter

Our concerts for this season treat audiences to "Music Above and Beyond." The exciting repertoire calls us to look to the sky for inspiration from the stars, the moon and the sun, and also to look inside ourselves to see new possibilities and dreams about how our world can change. We will be singing music that both stirs and calms, moving us forward with courage and joy.

Dave Anderson, woodwinds, and Bill Epstein, piano, join the Women's Ensemble for an elevating and heart-warming experience.

First Presbyterian Church — 208 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, December 13 (3:00 p.m.) and Sunday, December 14 (3:00 p.m.)

General admission: \$30 in advance at www.sfwe.org; \$35 at the door

Students and teachers, military and veterans: \$12

For information and admission purchases:
email info@sfwe.org or call 505-303-8648



This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Admission Purchases

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN



Christmas is almost upon us and Thanksgiving will have passed by the time you read this article. We have so much to be thankful for in our everyday lives and the holiday season just seems to emphasize God's blessings even more!

I am so very thankful for this community of volunteers who have done so much to support our church and its upkeep. Many of you are unsung heroes who quietly go about performing maintenance without being asked and with a smile on your faces, knowing that "it just needed to be done." But occasionally we rally together as a family in Christ as well, to focus on lists of projects that have been waiting in the wings to become prioritized. Such was the case with the Parish Work Day on September 28, held after the

10:30 service. I left the list up for several weeks so that everybody had a chance to see how much could be accomplished in an afternoon when we joined together. Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard and long and finished our ENTIRE wish list—and then some! The following is a list of our successes:

- Moved the large cross (from Kelly Hall)
- Vacuumed all of the pew cushions (don't they feel softer now?!)
 - Took the love seat to the dump
 - Sharpened all the pencils in the sanctuary (no small feat!)
 - Cleaned the KH kitchen (that was one determined committee!)
 - Cleaned the little kitchen
 - Cleaned doors, door frames, plastic trash bins, screens, windows, window frames, outdoor showcases, and entryways
 - Hung a mail basket for Mother Mary Ann
 - Replaced the outside boiler room door
 - Replaced yellow tape on KH floor
 - Moved a drum set
 - Pulled weeds
 - Removed drapery knobs in Sherrill Hall
 - Pruned the butterfly bush and roses
 - Hung mirrors in the Ladies' Robing Room (we needed that!)
 - Retaped handicap signs on the pews
 - Picked up fallen apples
 - Cleaned and weeded the playground area.

And these, as I said, are just the jobs I know about! Volunteering can be a difficult job, especially with time constraints and family needs that take priority, so your help is always greatly valued and appreciated. Thank you!

Next up, we had a fantastic Ministry Fair, headed by the indefatigable and brilliant Isabella Stephens and Kandice Favorite. A lot of work was put into this overall event from a lot of, you guessed it, enthusiastic

(Continued on page 7)

volunteers! What a fun afternoon learning about our ministries through a really awesome bingo game and getting to talk to those involved the ministries with specific questions targeted at getting to know people, as well as their passions (for example, I learned more about the history of Evensong and found out that Josh Moore is playing the trumpet!).

The Buildings and Grounds committee had the winning entry in the poster division (thank you, Patrick and Tina Moore!), which displayed much of what we do in our ministry. And the afternoon closed with an enthusiast dessert raffle, which—because it was enthusiastic—means of course that it had to have been MC'd by none other than our own Jeff Favorite. □

I'm sure next year will bring many more opportunities to serve our church and family in myriad different ways, if you are looking to volunteer. Meanwhile, please feel free to ask questions of anybody in any ministry or about ways in which you can serve.

May you have a most blessed and joyous Christmas, rejoicing in the coming of our Lord and Savior. Merry Christmas!

-Lisa Rothrock-

Junior Warden

2 Cor 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



Patrick Moore and Lisa Rothrock at the Ministry Fair (Buildings and Grounds table)

For the Record: Fall 2025

Burial of the Dead: Don Davidson, October 10, 2025

Prayers for the Dead: Irene Simeons, October 17, 2025

Holy Baptism: Trace William Roller, November 9, 2025



Stewardship and our TOTH Community

Patrick Moore

First off, some good news! During yesterday's Vestry meeting (11/23), Finance Committee Chair Leni Moore let us know that, barring an unexpected crisis (knock on wood), we should end the year with a small surplus. This is indeed a welcome turnaround as, when I had the privilege to join the Vestry two years ago, we were in the midst of a six-digit deficit. While Mother Mary Ann calmed us with remarkable pastoral serenity, reminding us that it is not truly a crisis until it happens multiple years in a row, we spent the lion's share of our time focusing on belt tightening, innovative revenue streams and, as you know, coming to all of you with a plea for help in climbing out of our substantial financial hole.

Fortunately, our collective efforts led to our shared success and our little communion on The Hill is (knock on wood with some earnest prayers) happily "in the black."

Which brings us to today and, depending on how you look at it, even better news as we are now positioned to re-engage with work that Christ called us to do. In opening our eyes and hearts in unexpected ways, the deep dive into our financial challenges truly illuminated who we are as a church and the role we play in the Los Alamos community. While I have always been aware that programs like Shop on the Corner are an important ministry, I really had little comprehension of how deeply our church, both as a building and a ministry, is intertwined with this town. In considering the proposal of trimming costs by simply turning down the heat except for Sundays, we discovered how untenable this plan would be in light of the range of entities, ranging from social service organizations and musical performers to youth programming and mutual self-help/recovery groups that rely on us almost every day of the week. It is through this powerful lens that we can better see where we might go.

Rather than have a self-congratulatory "glad this challenge is over" and move on, now is the time to consider who we are as a church and focus on the mountain we still need to climb. Although our shared efforts led us out of financial near-crisis, a much larger financial impediment stands between us and our ability to fulfill our many ministry possibilities. Kelly Hall stands as a testament to TOTH's vision of being that powerful focal point for our church and our entire community. However, the remaining mortgage balance of more than a quarter million dollars is an omnipresent financial burden that perpetually weighs down all our budgeting projections and stymies our ability to fully realize our outreach potential. Over the past year, we have had gifts that have cut deeply into the principal, including generous bequests in honor of Damon, who truly embodied what we do as a church in giving so much of himself to everyone he encountered.

Unexpected gifts such as these underscore the bigger question: What could we do in the name of Christ for this community we call home if we didn't have the daunting principal and interest payments of \$263,640 dragging us down? Rather than step back from the challenge, I hope you all will consider how our TOTH family can come together to eliminate this debt and move our myriad ministries into new and profound directions!

Christmas Open House

December 20, 2025

Food, Music, Merriment

2173 Loma Linda Dr.

Saint Nicholas

6:00pm

Fr. Colin Kelly and Susan Sprake (505) 570-0676 sprakesusan@gmail.com

THE BOSTON
PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRY

Families with school age children!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates for TOTH Young Family Potluck Dinners in Spring 2026:

January 14

February 18

March 18

April 15

May 20

All dinners are in Kelly Hall at 5:30 pm, but latecomers are welcome!

SEE YOU THERE!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday, December 7, 6:00 pm | Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent Followed by a reception in Kelly Hall. |
| Saturday, December 13 | Children's Christmas Bazaar, Kelly Hall |
| Saturday, December 20, 6:00 pm | Open House at the Sprake/Kelly Home |
| December 24, 2025—January 1, 2026 | TOTH Office Holiday Closure |
| Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 pm | Family Eucharist and Christmas Pageant |
| Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 pm | Carols and Midnight Mass |
| Thursday, December 25, 10:00 am | Christmas Day Holy Eucharist |
| Wednesday, December 31; 6:00 pm | New Year's Eve Party at the Rothrocks' Home |

Come party, come eat, come drink, and come celebrate our annual New Year's Eve gathering with all! Bring your family, your friends, your neighbors, and LOTS of kids! If we get enough swimmers signed up, the pool will be open from 6-10 pm, with a lifeguard included, so parents can relax and know the kids are safe.

The potluck party starts at 6 pm until ??? New Year's Eve, with a Eucharist at 7 pm. We will provide a cooked ham and hot mulled wine.

Don't like to drive in the dark? I'll bet we can get you a ride—just give us a call. Hope to see you then!

The Rothrocks

102 Monte Rey Dr. N.
White Rock, NM 87547
505-660-5564

*Happy
New Year*

A service of Advent Lessons and Carols

6:00 pm

Sunday December 7 2025

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos

followed by a reception in Kelly Hall

This colorful group from Trinity on the Hill went to see “Wicked: For Good” on November 21. Who is that green lady?

(photo: Mother Mary Ann)



Scenes from the Ministry Fair, November 2

We had a spectacular turnout of around 50 people! So many amazing people do so many amazing things in our church family and it was wonderful to see it all showcased, as well joining together in fellowship for some great food and fun times. Thank you to everyone who came, everyone who made a poster and/or hosted a table, and everyone who helped out with set up, clean up, and everything in between! An extra big shout-out to Kandice and Jeff Favorite, for helping organize and run everything. I hope to see everyone next year, where we all try to beat Buildings and Grounds for best poster! Thank you again, and God Bless.

Isabella Stephens



The winning poster in the 2025 Ministry Fair:
Buildings and Grounds!



Juárez House Building Mission

It is with deep gratitude for all your support and prayers that we share our experience on this year's House of Hope mission. This trip was not only a blessing to Jesus, Blanca, Rogelio, Jairo and Damian, for whom we built a home, but also to each and every one of us on the build. Participants included Jon, Julie and Sara Bulthuis, Annie Laurie Coogan from Holy Faith, Mother Lynn Finnegan, Joanna Gillespie, Rachel Greenwood, Beth Sanchez, Beth and Roger Smithson, Maria Saunders, Claire Singleton, and Seneca Tsoodle. The family, who had been living in a 13x13 foot structure and all sleeping in one bed, worked alongside us the whole time. Even 3 year-old Damian could be spotted wielding a paintbrush! We were blessed with good health and safety on the building site. Thanks to our TOTH family, we were able to purchase all the available add-ons for the family: a cistern, refrigerator, stove, curtains, 2 dressers, 2 sets of bunk beds and a double bed for mom and dad. We also had a spirit-filled afternoon as we provided a food and craft outreach to the local community. We had about 60 folks participating from ages 1 to mid-seventies, gluing on sequins and beads to paper plate doves and enjoying a nutritious lunch. Additionally, we spent an evening worshipping with the family and their community in a service led by Pastor Francisco, who was also present at all times on the building site. We eagerly look forward to sharing more photos and stories with the congregation. We give thanks to God for this amazing opportunity!

The House of Hope Team



Old House



New House!



Craft Outreach



Food Outreach



Painting his new house!

TOTH's Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry grassroots movement started in 2016 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Two years later, in spring 2018, our son Prescott proposed building a Little Free Pantry for Trinity on the Hill for his Eagle Scout project. His scoutmaster denied his request and suggested he find another project out of the mistaken belief Los Alamos had no need for a pantry. Prescott was undeterred and, in true Los Alamos fashion, he returned with a well-researched formal presentation and was given approval from both his scoutmaster and the TOTH Vestry. He installed the pantry (right) at what was then the entrance to Shop on the Corner, hoping it would be seen by many people and word would spread. Seven years later Prescott is still gratified to see how his project continues to have a positive impact.



Perhaps you know someone who believes that the pantry gets little use. The opposite is true. As a regular donor, I can attest to how quickly it empties. Statistics from the United Way's ALICE project reveal that 4% of households in Los Alamos County fall under the poverty threshold, while another 10% of wage-earning households are above the poverty level but earn less than the basic cost of living and do not qualify for assistance programs – 48% of these are single-mother households. The Food Depot in Santa Fe estimates that 1 in 12 people in our county experience food insecurity.

Luckily, we have LA Cares and The Food Depot, which both distribute food monthly. That is so important, but it is still just twice a month. Little Free Pantries play an increasingly vital role in meeting community needs by offering immediate, no-barrier access to food, hygiene items, and other essentials—24 hours a day, seven days a week. In moments when families face sudden gaps in paychecks, rising grocery prices, or unexpected emergencies, these small neighborhood pantries provide a dignified way to get help without paperwork, appointments, or proof of need. They also strengthen local connections by giving neighbors a simple, direct way to care for one another: take what you need, leave what you can. We now have at least seven Little Free Pantries in Los Alamos and White Rock.

Please consider supporting our Little Free Pantry or one that may be near your home. As you donate, please be a mindful steward: offer only items you would feel comfortable giving to a friend. That means no opened or partially used food, no expired items, no used toiletries or half-full bottles of shampoo, no perishable foods that require refrigeration, and no medications or vitamins. Instead, choose shelf-stable foods, hygiene items in their original unopened packaging, and other essentials that are safe, clean, and ready for immediate use.

A few minutes of kindness on your part can make an enormous difference for someone else.

Tina Moore





Sundays:

- **Holy Eucharist Rite I** at 8 am.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II with music** at 10:30 am; streamed via Facebook live at www.facebook.com/trinityoth
- **Compline**, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Prayers by candle-light, with plainsong. All welcome!
- **Choral Evensong**: 6:00 pm, first Sunday of the month (no Compline)

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

- **Service of Healing with Holy Communion**, 12:30 pm in St. Athanasius Chapel.

Thursdays:

- **Bible Study**, 11:30 am, Library, led by Susan Sprake

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

Sam McRae, Seminarian
3900 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 662-5107; admin@latoth.org

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Trinity on the Hill's Mission

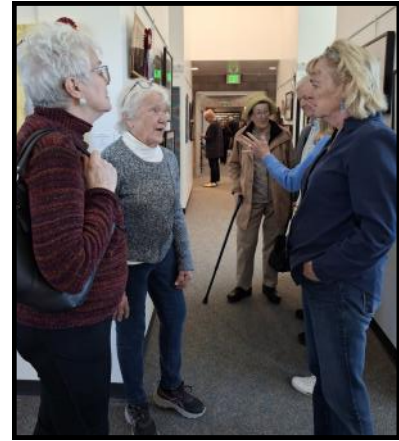
*The Mission of Trinity on the Hill is to share the power and joy of
God's love, to fully embrace all God's children,
and to respond to the needs of our community
and the world in the spirit of Jesus Christ*



**The next regularly scheduled issue will be in
spring. Deadline: check your email!**

Submit electronically to admin@latoth.org

Scenes from the 27th Annual New Mexico Veterans' Art Show at Mesa Public Library, November 1. Father Raymond had several of his photographs on display and quite a few TOTH friends were present for the reception and refreshments. (Photos: Karen Humphrey)



Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

3900 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Return Service Requested



Trinity Tidings
Advent 2025