

Rector's Report for April 23, 2025 Vestry Meeting

A recap of events/activities/goings-on since the report for our March vestry meeting:

Worship - Much of the past month has been about planning for Holy Week. This past Sunday, we celebrated a joyous Palm Sunday with a very full house at 10am. Our Maundy Thursday was also joyous and full — we ended up adding 4 tables to our initial layout plan as more and more folks RSVP'ed. The evening was parts solemn and joyful and rich, with wonderful music provided by Kate Wallace, Doug Clegg, James McVay, and Tom Joyce (along with “surprise” soloists during the Taize chants) in the first part of the service, and the choir in the second half of the service, in the sanctuary. // We celebrated Kent Carlander life at a memorial service and festive reception, with pies as far as the eye could see; I presided at the burial at Goleta cemetery the next day. // David Gartrell conducted an usher (new & refresher training), and Jeannie Christensen trained a new youth reader (Emma Sizer) and a new LEM (Donna Sugano) // the last Watershed Dinner church of the program year was in early April (in early May, Westmont will be on break, and most of our attendees are Westmont students), and we talked about the environment and inter-connectedness, drawing on Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *The Serviceberry*. // Along with Mary Gibson and Theo Patterson, I met with the mother and son who will be baptized at the Easter vigil, in order to do baptism prep.

Adult Education/Formation - We finished our 5 part (plus a Saturday) Lenten series on 4/9; many thanks to the planning team (Gary Hall, Georgia Noble, Caryl Casbon, John Draper, and myself). The topic of reading scripture through the lens of poetry was very well received. // Sarah and I met with the YOLO leaders to get an update about the group, and heard about the group's growth, how topics are selected, and how the group operates.

Pastoral Care / Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 8 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits.

Leadership - It was a delight to welcome our new Welcome Chair (John Spence) at the April Parish Council meeting and Invite/Welcome/Connect steering committee meeting. // Georgia and I are still working on B&G co-chairs. // Georgia and I met with our new Jr. Warden, Susan Zink, to do some “on-boarding.”

Financial things - The Investment Committee met with Mission Wealth for a year-end review meeting on 3/23 // I participated in the Finance Committee meeting on 4/13 to review the first quarter financials.

Weddings - In the past month, Trinity has been the site of two weddings over the past month (one presided by at by Sarah, one with an outside officiant)

Outside building use - Besides our usual groups who use Trinity's space (CLUE, Ring Shout, AA), we welcomed the Tomato theater company, SBHS choral concert, UCSB concert, and a Bill Wood noon concert.

Broader church - My work with the Bishop search committee continues (I'm on the application and interview questions team, and the candidate recruitment team). // I attended the clergy vow renewal service at the cathedral on Tuesday of Holy Week. // My pups and I joined in the Hands Off gathering at DeLaGuerra plaza on April 5 - what a peaceful and passionate gathering!

Personal: I'll be missing the April Vestry meeting, as I'll be on vacation for a bit, visiting my daughter in Western Massachusetts, and spending a few days in Sedona doing some hiking. // I met with Ben Ewart last week, at the rectory, to finalize plans for the installation of my new ovens and renovation/relocation of my pantry. Some - most? All? - of the work may be done by the time I return from my post-Easter travels!

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth+
April 18, 2025

Associate Rector Report for April 23, 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Much of March was spent preparing for Holy Week! Here is what else I was up to:

Parish Council

We welcomed new Welcome Council Chair John Spence. We also began our preparations for the Ministry Fair which will take place on May 4th.

Hospitality Council

I supported the Hospitality co-chairs in their organization of recruiting volunteers for Holy Week. Isao and Georg did a terrific job assembling a wonderful group of people to help with all things Hospitality for our many Holy Week services.

JOC

I supported Ken Johnson in his gun violence prevention forum on April 6th. He did a great job! The 3 panelists were terrific and there were about 30 people in attendance. I have also been supporting the organization of the Climate Connections weekend that will take place on May 3rd and 4th. The team is doing a great job and I encourage Vestry members to attend the workshop which will be from 9-2pm on Saturday, May 3rd.

Compline

We had a wonderful Compline on April 6th with parishioner Randall Day as the storyteller. There were about 65 people in attendance. We have one more Compline in May and then we will be taking our summer break.

Pastoral Care

I continue to meet with parishioners in need – in their homes, hospital rooms, and over the phone. We have a weekly pastoral care meeting where we go over the pastoral needs in the parish.

FARO Center

We prepared and served one FARO meal since our last Vestry Mtg. The volunteers continue to be a nice mix of newcomers and old-timers. The guests at the Center love the food we make. We are using up the last of the warming center casseroles. SB Act highlighted Trinity in its latest newsletter, naming us as the volunteers of the month. This continues to be a thriving ministry for Trinity.

Sacraments

I officiated at one wedding and am currently meeting with one couple for pre-marital counseling for a wedding in September. I assisted at one memorial service for Kent Carlander. I baptized Paul Lowi at the Easter Vigil.

Adult Formation

I participated in the whole Lenten Series this year, helping with some hospitality and some ritual, but mostly I got to just show up and participate, which was a real treat. It was a wonderful series and very well attended.

Diocese

Elizabeth, John, and I attended the annual clergy renewal of vows service at the diocesan center in LA on the Tuesday of Holy Week. This is the service where we also collect the blessed oils for our stock.

Community Outreach

I attended the Santa Barbara Clergy Association meeting at which we discussed local immigration issues. I serve as the treasurer.

Personal

My older girls, Maddie and Zoe, were home during their Spring Break. It was wonderful to have them home again!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report

April 2025

Welcome Team Support:

- Elizabeth Molitors and I recruited John Spence to serve as Chair of the Welcome Team. I updated the Greeter Manual, and we are hosting a brunch and training update with the Greeters on May 31.

Connect Team Support:

- Susan Kruttsch and I are collaborating with the Parish Council, ministry leaders, and Betty Wenzel to prepare for the upcoming Ministry Fair on May 4.
- We are also launching another round of Food with Friends at the Ministry Fair.
- The “Small Groups” Working Team I am part of continues to meet under the leadership of Michael Arnold. We are planning a training session for small group leaders on June 21. The theme will be "Best Practices for Deepening Connection and Purpose." The target audience will include leaders and current participants in small groups and the ministry.

Other projects:

- I, along with Elizabeth, Gary Hall, John Draper, and Caryl Casbon, have been part of the design team for our Lenten Series, which was a significant success.
- Jane Forsyth and I, along with a fantastic group of volunteers, just completed the “Flowering of the Church” for Easter. We had so many volunteers this year that we were able to create two shifts.

On a personal note: My son, Christopher, is home for a couple of days for Easter weekend. What joy to wake up with him in the house.

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Report from the Junior Warden or People's Warden: Susan Zink

The Junior Warden position is now a People's Warden, ideally one with a consistently positive attitude, with a familiarity and experience with the congregation and a commitment to Trinity's mission and purpose. I personally would add the social aspect of duties such as meeting visitors and newcomers, helping them make meaningful connections with others at Trinity, and socializing, such as lunch or brunch after church or dinner out together.

In the new description, the Junior Warden/People's Warden position no longer chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Patsy Price, of the committee, generously and unofficially is our go to person in this gap time when we are looking for co-leaders for this committee. An issue did come up regarding a hand railing that was stolen from the steps leading up to the sanctuary entrance from the Micheltorena Street side and Patsy contacted Wrought Iron Works for a price estimate for a new railing and installation. I haven't heard what the estimate or time frame is. Thank you to Patsy for taking the lead on this.

Elizabeth has been working with new member, contractor Ben Ewert, this last week to finally get a new oven and pantry. She has not had a consistently working oven for years and with all the entertaining she does for the church in the Rectory (new members brunches, children cookie baking, leadership dinners and various other meetings paired with a meal), it is high time for this to happen.

Personally, I plan to attend Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil this week, I might add, for the first time at Trinity. A couple weeks ago Paul and I attended Compline to hear Randall Day tell his story, for the first time. While this position is just beginning, I will be traveling on a trip of a lifetime, for May and June, so will miss the next two meetings. I hope to send a quick synopsis and a couple of pictures of our activities in France, England (where we will see Paul and Pat Delaney), and lastly, Spain, for my next two updates from The People's Warden.

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry

April 23, 2025

For the period of March 1-31, 2025

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot

Profit & Loss (P&L)	March	YTD
Income	114,685.71	380,306.23
Expenses	92,804.15	258,762.16
Net Income	21,881.56	121,544.07

- **Current cash**, as of March 31, 2025
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Operating Account: 293,418.01
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Capital Projects: 70,081.22
 - Petty Cash: 50.00
- **Schwab Investments**, value as of March 31, 2025
 - Looking Beyond Ourselves (LBO): 1,090,524.71
 - Brackenbury: 1,409,279.82
 - Reserve Funds: 305,191.24
 - Mark Asman PT Fund: 80,373.53
 - **Total: 2,885,369.30**

Notes

- **Our first quarter (first three months of the year) is looking great.** Across all categories, we're doing well - particularly great to see \$121K in net income. We do have some uplift in a couple expense categories such as water, but the staff is looking into if there are any particular building issue(s) that need to be addressed.
- **First draw from our Brackenbury and LBO investment funds.** This month we made our first draws from the Brackenbury (\$35K) and LBO (\$15K) investment funds to cover the Vestry-approved capital projects. This month these funds covered a number of projects, including some repairs and renovations.
- **Investment fund seeing downward pressure.** All of our investment funds saw a loss in value this month due to wider market conditions. Our investment portfolios are conservative in structure, so our loss in value thankfully did not reflect the degree of loss in benchmarks such as S&P 500, etc.

Submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
April 14, 2025

For any questions or comments:
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