

Rector's Report for August 27, 2025 Vestry Meeting

A recap of events/activities/goings-on since the report for our June vestry meeting (no meeting in July):

Worship - It was great to have Mark Asman with us as preacher on the last Sunday of June, before he and Bill Wood left SB for their move to Rancho Mirage. The congregation prayed them off at both services, and we enjoyed a festive coffee hour in honor of Mark's life and ministry at Trinity. // I was pleased to lead a team of 5 bakers - including one youth grouper - in baking the communion bread. Look for opportunities to volunteer to join in this activity (about every 6 weeks). // I presided at a service at SB cemetery for a gentleman whose in-laws and extended family had been a part of Trinity in the early to mid 1900s. // This afternoon (as I write this), we'll be celebrating the life of longtime Trinity member, Irene Sayhun, who died in mid-July. // I presided at a wedding for a couple from China, who came to the U.S. for college, grad school, and work. After the wedding service at Trinity (with bride and groom in traditional 'western' wedding garb), I was invited to be part of a traditional Chinese ceremony (at a local hotel) where the bride and groom honor their parents and accept their in-laws as another set of parents. // Another wedding....I traveled to Ohio in mid-July to officiate at my niece's wedding, held in a grocery store! (Yes, really. Ask me for photos.)

Adult Education/Formation - The adult formation planning team met in July to make further plans for the 2025-2026 program year, including some guest speakers and facilitators for our Lenten program kickoff. Signups are underway for Episcopal 101, which will take place over 4 Sundays in September and early October.

Pastoral Care / Newcomers: Over the past weeks since our last meeting, I met with 8 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits. A newcomer brunch took place 6/21 at the rectory, with more than 25 people in attendance.

Leadership - Senior warden, Georgia Noble and I, along with parishioner Michele Mollkoy, have been working on the leadership retreat to take place August 29/30. Michele is our facilitator, talking about how to have "crucial conversations."

Financial things - I participated in the Finance Committee meetings in July and August to review the June and July financials, and talk through the assumptions being used to build the draft of the 2026 budget. // The audit committee members have been doing their review work over the summer, and their finalized audit and recommendations will be presented to the Vestry at our August meeting.

Young Adults: Theo Patterson organized two summer young adult events - casual dinners at local restaurants - and I was able to attend one of them. Watershed dinner church will resume on the first Sunday of September. Theo is always looking for folks who can help by providing the food for our monthly dinners - if you're interested, please contact Theo. // I attended a lunch at Westmont, sponsored by the Gaede Institute, to talk about ways that they can support local churches in reaching out to young adults.

Broader church and community - The work of the bishop search committee has really ramped up for me the past 2 months. The application window closed the end of June, after which the committee reviewed applications, and then decided who to interview via Zoom. After the Zoom interviews, the team met again to discern who to invite to a 4 day retreat for in-person interviews; that retreat ended yesterday (as I write this.) The committee meets again in 2 weeks to discuss what names to present to the Standing Committee, which makes the final decision about who will be on the slate. The Standing Committee will announce the slate September 12. Meet and greets, at various locations around the diocese will begin around the 3rd week of October (days/times/sites will be announced soon.) Some (all?) of the meet and greets will be available via Zoom. Trinity's clergy and lay delegates to diocesan convention will be the ones voting for the next bishop, but anyone - everyone - is invited to attend the meet and greets.

Personal - I mentioned previously that I traveled to Ohio to officiate my niece's wedding, as well as to visit my dad and other family. In August, some of those same family members came to SB to "staycation" with me. Highlights included a tour of Architectural Millwork with Joe Matthews, a tour of Lotusland with Elizabeth Patterson, a visit to Sensorio in Paso Robles, and - because my brother likes fix-it projects - 5 trips were made to 4 different hardware stores. (As he tells it, vacation isn't vacation without a visit to a hardware store.)

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth+
August 23, 2025

Associate Rector Report, August 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

Parish Council took July off, but gathered back together in August to share about our summers and to look toward the fall season. Lots of good things are underway. We decided to do a "ministry spotlight" for the Children and Youth Council to highlight areas where we need more volunteer engagement as well as to let the parish know how well our youth group is going. We are looking forward to our leadership retreat later this month.

Meal Ministry

We made our final FARO Center meal in July. Since this day center will no longer be offering hot meals, I am in conversation with DJ Johnsen (of Kingdom Causes) who has started "supper clubs" in town at various housing facilities. There is an opening at Vera Cruz Village and I am hoping we can start a once-a-month meal in which a team of Trinity folks will share a homemade meal with residents, who are in supportive housing. I am in conversation with DJ and the coordinator of Vera Cruz Village to plan next steps.

Compline

I have lined up some wonderful storytellers for the fall season. We are working on shoring up a more regular group of "sacristans" to help with the set up and take down of the sanctuary each month. I have met quite a few people who have found their way to becoming regulars at Trinity for whom Compline was their first experience. Compline continues to be a wonderful way in to our inclusive and vibrant faith community.

JOC

JOC is in need of some new people, and maybe even a new structure. I am working with Jeffrey and Elizabeth to strategize how to infuse some new life into this essential council. Rev. Francisco Garcia will be preaching on 10/26 on the issue of immigration justice and the Sacred Resistance group in our diocese. I hope to have him work with some of our justice leaders.

Sacraments

I am working with two couples in preparation for their September weddings. I presided at the graveside service for Irene Sahyun, as well as her memorial service.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

As part of the steering committee, I attended our August meeting and have been following through on plans re integrating our newcomers and assembling a Labyrinth Guild.

Pastoral Care

I trained two new Lay Eucharistic Visitors to join our team of people who take Communion to the homebound. I meet weekly with our pastoral care team to discuss the needs of the parish. I continue to make home and hospital visits to parishioners in need of pastoral care.

Discernment Committees

Elizabeth and I are assembling three discernment committees for this fall for people exploring calls to ordained ministry.

Adult Formation

I attended our summer meeting where we looked to the year ahead to plan various offerings. David Richo came in July to teach on loving kindness.

Community Outreach

John Draper and I attended a training on nonviolent direct action in LA in July. It was a first step in learning how to de-escalate at protests and what goes into planning rallies and protests. I attended the County Supervisors meeting in July and made public comment in support of supporting our undocumented neighbors. I also attended a City Council meeting with same aim in mind. I attended the "good trouble" protest here in Santa Barbara.

Personal

I enjoyed a week away with my family in northern Idaho to visit Mitch's side of the family. My eldest daughter Maddie moved to London last week to pursue her MFA in classical acting. We are excited for her! Zoe has begun her junior year of college and Gwyneth is beginning high school. Lots of transition for our family as Mitch finishes up his sabbatical and heads back to his teaching at Westmont this week.

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report July/August 2025

Woven around some vacation time, I have been meeting with various people and committees to plan for the coming fall and the Vestry transition. We are forming the New Vestry Nominating Committee for the next Vestry Slate, which will be developed this fall.

Welcome Team Support:

- Susan Kruttsch and I are still leading the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee. Our team's project to enhance our tracking system for newcomers has made significant progress in time for the Fall.
- The Greeter Team is functioning well with John Spencer's leadership and the support of the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee.

Connect Team Support:

- The nine Food with Friends groups have met over the summer and are providing positive feedback on their success. We are planning an abbreviated version for the Fall.
- I have been working with the team for Small Groups, and we are planning a four-hour training on "The Best Practices for Small Group Formation" scheduled for September 13.

Other projects:

- The Adult Formation team has met twice over the summer and has some exciting things planned.
- Elizabeth and I are actively recruiting for a new chair for Building & Grounds. We have an excellent candidate who is a 99% yes. Stay tuned.
- I have been meeting with the Parish Council and Elizabeth to discuss plans for the fall, including the Fall Giving Campaign, Ministries to promote, Adult Formation, and the Vestry Nominating Committee.

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden Report (People's Warden)

August 2025

Activities

Invite/Welcome/Connect committee -continuing to help Betty with structuring a Newcomer Pathway to keep track of newcomers and keep in contact. Also purchased more red lanyards for name tags as we've gone through 100.

Drivers Listos, Bouquet Blessings, Greeter and Welcome Table, congregation packed over 150 shelf stable lunches for our unhoused neighbors

Substituted 6 times for Greeters, Welcome Table and Bouquet Blessings

Delivered 2 dinners for Helping Hands

Shared visits/meals with 9 church members

Attended Adult Forum

Visited Sarah Dobbs in the hospital. Plan to visit her next Sunday to sing Happy (93) Birthday

Even played Pickle Ball with two players from church

Potential Community Outreach

Paul and I went to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Fiesta and they had closed the gates as ICE was circling. We got in and their attendance was way down. We found out they had 1000 instead of 3000 that night. I contacted Jeff Krutsch to see if Trinity could make a donation from JOC and we are awaiting a letter from their church so Jeff can present the idea to JOC board.

Personal

We had a fabulous 9 week trip to France, England, Spain and Portugal. We visited 54 churches along the way and I actually started singing in them to listen to the acoustics. We did meet up with members Paul and Pat Delaney for church and lunch at St. Martin in the Field in London and met up with Elizabeth Patterson and her daughter for dinner in Barcelona!

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry

August 27, 2025

For the period of July 1-31, 2025

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot

Profit & Loss (P&L)	July	YTD
Income	81,254.300	623,754.05
Expenses	86,321.46	587,240.26
Net Income	(5,067.16)	36,513.79

- **Current cash**, as of July 31, 2025
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Operating Account: 192,743.44
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Capital Projects: 68,335.69
 - Petty Cash: 50.00
- **Schwab Investments**, value as of July 31, 2025
 - Looking Beyond Ourselves (LBO): 1,180,800.11
 - Brackenbury: 1,493,182.36
 - Reserve Funds: 324,262.37
 - Mark Asman PT Fund: 85,365.87
 - **Total: 3,083,610.71**

Notes

- **Continued positive bottom line.** Our income for the month of July, and year to date (YTD), continued to be above budget. Our expenditures remain at or below budget, bringing us to a "bottom line" of a net positive (\$36K more than we budgeted at this point in the year). I am grateful for God's generosity, and the commitment of our Trinity community, towards our church.
- **Water (utilities) resolved, but will remain above budget.** While we were able to resolve our malfunctioning irrigation system and that expense is now back in line for July, due to the large expense over the first part of the year, we'll continue to see that category remain above budget for most of the year.
- **2026 Budget season has begun.** Elizabeth has already begun the 2026 budget process by meeting with department leaders and determining what our church's focuses will be in 2026. Elizabeth will meet with the Finance Committee in early August to bring them up to speed on the process and timing of getting from idea stage to Vestry approval to the blessing by the Trinity community.