

Rector's Report for October 29, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Worship - Trinity hosted its annual Pet Blessing on October 3, in honor of St. Francis' feast day. A representative from SB Humane joined us, and set up a table with information about their services to the community, along with treats for pets and humans. // As I mentioned last month, Sarah and I have worked to set up 3 new discernment committees for 3 individuals discerning about ordained ministry, and this month we had a training session for those discerning and their committees. The training was focused on what makes for good open questions, and practicing deep listening. // I'm working with the Bergquist family to put together a memorial service for their son, Matthew, who died in late September. Date and time and other details are still to be determined.

Adult Education/Formation - On October 5, Sarah and I finished up our 4-week Episcopal 101 series that we offer each fall. The good attendance continued, with people asking great, insightful questions. The selection of the Anglican church's first female Archbishop of Canterbury gave us an opportunity to connect the topics we were covering to current events. At the end of the 4th class, there was a bit of a conflict/altercation with one of the attendees, but I'll talk about that in a separate section about security. // Christine Purcell conducted a forum about Centering Prayer on October 12, and the first of five Centering Prayer sessions was held this week in Trinity's chapel.

Pastoral Care / Newcomers: Over the past weeks since our last meeting, I met with 9 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits. // The Invite/Welcome/Connect steering committee met this week to continue its work overseeing the various I/W/C initiatives.

Financial things - Much of mid-September thru mid-October was devoted to work on the Annual Giving campaign, including preparing materials for the pledge packets (pledge card, rector letter, 2026 draft budget, and explanatory budget notes). Mary Ann and Betty recruited volunteers to help with packet assembly/stuffing. The Hospitality Council oversaw the annual giving kickoff potluck dinner on October 11, organizing volunteers to assist with setup, decorating, food receiving/arranging, drinks table,

Fundraisers - The Trinity Backstage fundraiser for 805 Undocufund took place on October 4th, playing to a packed house, eager to hear songs of resistance and hope in standing up to oppressive forces. Many thanks to Kate Wallace, Doug Clegg, Jimmy McVay and some other musical guests who made the evening so special. // The Cookie Walk planning team met in late September to continue its work to plan the 5th Annual Cookie Walk, to take place December 14. Cookie Walk volunteers have been at coffee hour each Sunday to recruit bakers and event volunteers.

Children, Youth, and Young Adults: On October 5, we had our first Watershed Dinner Church of the new program year. Attendees shared a meal and Eucharist, and responded to question prompts designed to help us get to know ourselves and one another better. // Theo and

I, along with a team of parishioners, participated in a series of events connected to the Thriving Communities program, offered through Westmont's Gaede Institute, and funded by a Lilly grant. First, we attended a dinner hosted by two of the Thriving Communities facilitators, then we attended an all-day retreat/workshop at Westmont, which we followed up with a working lunch at the rectory to discuss our first project. As I mentioned in last month's report, the Thriving Communities program is designed to help churches find ways to make their programming (in Trinity's case, for young adults) thrive. // The CYC (children and youth council) is gearing up for its Second Annual Halloween Hullabaloo party, to be held tomorrow. I helped (or tried to) Theo out, in terms of promoting this event, by appearing at church, during announcements, dressed in an inflatable T-Rex costume, as Theo encouraged everyone to attend. (Yes, there are photos and video.). When I wear the costume, I am the Tyrannosaurus Rector!

Broader church and community - The bishop search committee, of which I'm a member, finished up its work earlier this month, making reference calls and doing background checks on any petition candidates. (The Standing Committee approved a petition candidate, who later withdrew from the process because of some family health issues.) Tasks then shifted to the Transition Committee, whose job it was to organize and host the candidate "meet and greet" sessions, which took place this week. I attended two sessions in person - one at St. Columba's in Camarillo and another in Echo Park, at the diocesan center, which was specifically for clergy. Members of Trinity's delegation attended sessions either in person or via Zoom, and before diocesan convention, we'll meet as a group to share our observations. Diocesan Convention is November 7 and 8 in Riverside. // The Interfaith Dinner with the Islamic Society took place on Friday, September 26, attended by about 30 members from each faith community. Sitting at tables of 8 (4 from Trinity, 4 from the Islamic Society), we enjoyed food from Zaytoon's while we talked, responding to question prompts created by Imam Wael and me. There was lots of lively chatter and laughter, connections were made, and a team of volunteers from both congregations will be meeting in November to plan future events. Many thanks to Eileen and Charlie Read who were the primary event organizers, and to Isao Sugano for help with all the hospitality details. // Sarah and I attended a deanery meeting, held at St. Paul's Episcopal in Santa Paula. Bishop Taylor was in attendance, and reflected about his years as bishop in this diocese. // Sarah and I also attended a County Board of supervisors meeting, as they were scheduled to discuss changes in healthcare services for undocumented immigrants, and impending job losses for county health workers (all of this is tied to loss of federal funding and/or restrictions on federal funding, i.e. with regard to services for immigrant populations. // I was appointed by the bishop to serve on the Committee on Constitution and Canons for this year's diocesan convention. This group is responsible for reviewing any amendments to the diocesan canons that will be presented to the convention delegates to be voted on. The Committee reviews (and edits) the language to ensure consistency, clarity, and compliance with national canons (dioceses cannot pass canons that contradict national canons.)

Other/Various - Coming up in early November (November 5), Trinity is going to be showing the documentary, *Traces of the Trade*, which tells the story of the largest slave trading family in the U.S., based in Rhode Island. The filmmaker, Katrina Brown, is descended from that family, is an Episcopal priest, and makes it plain how much the church, and other institutions, benefited

from the slave trade. A 30 minute discussion, in small groups, will follow the movie. I'm grateful to be working with Michelle Petty and Sarah Thomas to organize this event, // On October 19, we held a Care Kit Sunday - special thanks to the Zinks and Theo Patterson for organizing and overseeing the assembly of the kits (more than 150 of them) and encouraging people to take and distribute them to people in need. If you were there, you may have noticed that the kinds of items to be included in the kits is shifting - away from items with high sugar, fat, salt, and toward more protein. Parishioner Julie Hayes-Nadler, who is a nutritionist, consulted with Doctors Without Walls about the health issues facing people who are experiencing homelessness (diabetes, and muscle loss from lack of protein) and came up with recommendations of better food choices to include in the kits. // I met with Ben Ewart at the rectory, to discuss and prioritize the next projects to take place there, to address some issues of rotting wood around some windows, doors, and decking. // At the last Episcopal 101 class, there was an angry and belligerent outburst from a man who goes by "Ethan Henry," directed at me and Sarah. This was not the first time that Ethan (who is unhoused, and mentally ill) has treated us this way, but this incident was extreme, and made us and other folks in attendance at Episcopal 101 feel unsafe, due to his unpredictable behavior. The following week, after talking with staff members, including our parish nurse, I made the decision that Ethan would no longer be welcome at Trinity. We sent him a letter letting him know of this decision, and so far (as we know), he hasn't been back on our campus since then (although he has been nearby, as well as vocal on social media, and sent a number of angry texts and emails.). Anticipating that he might try to attend the annual giving kickoff dinner, I hired our overnight security person, Jon Diaz, to be a presence on campus that evening. And, because Jon is not available Sunday mornings, I hired - on 10/12 and 10/19 - another security person, recommended by Jon, to be present during services, and patrol the property. This whole situation highlights the vulnerability of religious institutions, especially in these polarized times, and so we are working with the Santa Barbara Clergy Association, to try and enlist the help of the police, to be a more active presence in and around Santa Barbara during the time of worship services. I also attended a webinar put on by the national church about security risks, and learned about grant funding available for churches, to address security issues. I'll be working to submit a grant application by the April 2026 deadline.

Personal - I was able to "attend" (online) a lecture/presentation by Washington DC bishop, Mariann Budde, and author/poet, Padraig O Tuama, hosted by St. Thomas Church in New York. They spoke about "sanctuary and belonging" with O Tuama focusing on a fascinating reading of the Book of Ruth. //I mentioned last month that my niece, Dana, would be visiting in November, and now my nephew is going to be joining her (he heard about the plans we'd made for a very special dinner at Bouchon, and he didn't want to miss out. He's the ultimate FOMO guy!

Respectfully submitted,
October 24, 2025
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report for Oct. 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

Parish Council skipped its meeting this last month due to so many people needing to be absent. The Annual Giving Kickoff dinner went so well. Thanks to Hospitality co-chair Isao, as well as all those who brought food and helped set-up/clean-up. Parish Council is currently working on planning the Nov. 9th Ingathering Brunch along with the Vestry. Sign-ups have been circulated and each leader is asked to provide food and service during the brunch. We are looking forward to this fun morning to celebrate our annual giving season. I have supported the brunch by organizing the sign-ups and helping the Hospitality co-chair Georg Rice with the timeline for the morning. Co-chair Isao is out of town that weekend.

Adult Formation

Episcopal 101 wrapped up a few weeks ago. It was a great group with good attendance and excellent questions. Elizabeth and I each taught two classes. Elizabeth and I met with Michelle Petty to plan the upcoming viewing and discussion of the film *Traces of the Trade* which will take place on Wed. Nov. 5th.

JOC

The Justice and Outreach Council is in the middle of their annual grant discernment process, in which they decide which local organizations/projects will receive Trinity grants taken from 5% of our pledge income. Jennifer Bergquist is still needing someone to come forward to lead the Alternative Christmas market. People have signed on as helpers, but we are still looking for a lead. Jennifer is offering to provide support. Francisco Garcia was our guest preacher and offered a forum on the sacred resistance ministry of our diocese.

Supper Club

Our first supper club went great. We were able to not only make the homemade meal, but also sit and eat with the residents of Vera Cruz Village. It was meaningful and fun. We will be doing this once a month.

Pastoral Care

I continue to meet regularly with parishioners for pastoral care. Norma Stuck is ready to hand the prayer shawl ministry over to a new leader. I am supporting her in finding someone new. Two meal trains are in process through our Helping Hands ministry. The Bouquet Blessings continue to be delivered each week. I am providing spiritual direction for two Westmont students as a requirement for their class. I get paid by Westmont but I am putting these funds directly into the clergy discretionary account.

Discernment Committees

Elizabeth and I, along with Georgia and Caryl, hosted a training for the 3 discernment committees on Oct. 7th. It was a wonderful evening of learning about the discernment process in our diocese as well as practicing open and honest questions. The committees are off to a great start.

Compline

Our October Compline brought in around 90 people with parishioner Michelle Petty as the storyteller. I have lined up storytellers through March and it is a great slate. The sacristan team is becoming its own little community. For the first time, we are hoping to add Compline to the budget since it does have expenses and is bringing in a lot of people. We are starting small. Maybe in future years the budget will grow. Our sound artist offers his gifts free of charge. I give the storytellers a book as a thank you, and when possible, a modest honorarium depending on the donations at the door. This extra money will help with costs, including tea and sometimes dinner for the sacristans.

Community Outreach

I was a presenter for the Word & Life group on Oct. 23rd. They are going through Richard Rohr's book *The Tears of Things* and I was invited to speak on one of the chapters. I attended the local interfaith clergy association meeting where we gathered at B'nai B'rith. Elizabeth and I attended the County Supervisors meeting on Oct. 7th in support of our local immigrants and public health employees. Elizabeth and I drove down to the diocesan center in Echo Park to attend the Meet & Greet for the 3 bishop candidates. We also attended our local deanery gathering which took place in Santa Paula. Bishop Taylor was there and it was good to be with him and in community with our local colleagues.

Personal

I am missing this month's vestry meeting as I will be on a silent retreat for a few days up in Big Sur. I will be staying at the New Camaldoli hermitage enjoying some much-needed time for prayer, reflection, and solitude. Looking forward to it!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas

Senior Warden Report October 2025

The project that has been foremost this month is all things related to co-chairing the Vestry Nominating Committee with Susan Krutzsch.

Vestry Nominating Committee:

- I held a Vestry Nominating Forum for the congregation at large, open to anyone interested in serving on the vestry or nominating someone for it.
- We put together the nominating committee in mid-September and just completed our recommended slate for the vestry. I want to thank all member of the nominating committee for doing such a great job. Susan Krutzsch (co-chair). Andria Bargiel, Nollie Lei Dawson, Mary Gibson, Christen Foell, Mac McNeel, Ellen O'Connell Whittet, and Susan Zink. The Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates for the Vestry:
 - Brian Bargiel (3-year term)
 - Lucy Bell (one-year term)
 - Claude Garciacelay (3-year term)
 - Carol Ann Manzi (3-year term)
 - Ellen O'Connell Whittet has agreed to a 3-year term extension.
 - Clare Carey-Pisani (youth representative)

Invite Welcome Connect Team Support: Susan Krutzsch and I are continuing to lead the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee.

- We launched "Together at the Table," a new program designed to bring people together for a single potluck meal at parishioners' homes over the past two months. The feedback so far has been very positive.

Other Projects:

- Elizabeth and I successfully recruited Chris Mollkoy as the new chair of Building & Grounds.
- I am busy planning the last three months of my term as Senior Warden. I want to pass the baton with good notes and organized files 😊

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden Report (People's Warden)

October 2025

Activities

Greeter, Welcome Table, Bouquet Blessings

Substituted 2 times for Greeters and Welcome Table

Shared lunch with 2 couples after church

Shared breakfast with wife so husband could go to men's breakfast

Shared my voice therapy notes with singer from church who was injured during surgery and it seems to be healing her voice

Attended interfaith dinner

Attended Cookie Walk Meeting and manned the Cookie Walk Table at coffee hour

Visited recovering Sarah Dobbs

Attended the Potluck stewardship dinner

Set up and packed Care Bags at coffee hour

Search committee for new Vestry Members

Hosted Together at the Table for 9 in our home

Community Outreach

An idea was born at the interfaith dinner for ISSB and Trinity to support each others' fundraisers. I have invited their congregation to bake cookies for our Cookie Walk. I received encouraging responses and the idea will be discussed at the next committee meeting in November.

Personal

I found out that I have uterine cancer and have a full hysterectomy on Monday, October 27 so will not be at the next Vestry meeting. They think it is small and are hoping there will be no treatment. Sadly, I had to drop out of the Mozart concert because of this.

- Susan Zink