

Rector's Report for January 22, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Pastoral care / newcomer: Since our last Vestry meeting, I've met with 5 parishioners for pastoral care or newcomer connection.

Worship: December and early January have been a busy worship time, encompassing everything from Debbie Molnar's memorial service to our annual Blue Christmas service, to wrapping up our Advent preaching series on the mystics, to the full-to-overflowing Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, with the children's pageant at the 4pm Christmas Eve service, and full choir + trumpet and chimes at the 10pm service. Our space was beautifully adorned with flowers and greenery put together by volunteers on Christmas Eve morning. On the Sunday after Christmas, we did our annual Lessons and Carols service, plus Eucharist. // I attended the Watershed Young Adult dinner church on January 12, where we talked about resolutions and implementing habits that feed us spiritually. Many thanks to Isao Sugano who provided dinner for the group.

Fundraisers and a Funraiser: We enjoyed a wonderful event the first Saturday in December: Trinity Backstage, the Christmas Edition, on the labyrinth. Kate Wallace and Doug Clegg, along with several guest musicians, put on a wonderful show in the warm, late-afternoon sunlight. Many volunteers signed up to help with setup/cleanup, welcoming, and refreshments, and the event was a financial success, as well (\$2,000). // We also had an incredibly successful Cookie Walk - the fourth annual - with more people from the community attending than in previous years. Between the cookies and the basket raffle, we netted over \$9200. There were lots of new bakers this year, as well as new volunteers helping as cookie concierges, cookie box packers, and checkout people. // The "funraiser" I refer to is the Annual Ornament Exchange (6th annual), where we do a 'white elephant' style of exchange of ornaments, and share snacks and laughter. About 25 people attended this year's event.

Adult Formation: A subset of the Adult Formation team has been working with Mark Asman to finalize the details of a 2-part series digging deeper into The Dignity Index. We're looking forward to a series about Aging and Cognition Issues (in February), and our Lenten Series about reading scripture in conversation with literature and poetry (the series will kick off on the Saturday after Ash Wednesday, with an all-day workshop led by former Trinity Interim Rector, Gary Hall). // Parishioner Jax Robinson, working in conjunction with the labyrinth group, is organizing an Inauguration of Love event on January 20, Inauguration Day, where the labyrinth will be open and staffed by volunteers to provide a space of calm and quiet in the midst of this contentious political time. This dovetails with MLK Day events in SB.

Miscellany: I was happy to attend a presentation by Fr. Greg Boyle at the UCSB Arts and Lectures series in early December, with some of his points and stories informing my preaching the following Sunday. // There have been 3 weeks this season when we were slated to be the Freedom Warming Center site, but we have not yet been activated. Our next possible date is in

late January. // On Christmas Day morning, our sound system completely died/fizzled, but working with Betty Wenzel and Brian Bargiel, we were able to put together a plan to purchase a new controller unit, get it installed, and then have an audio professional come in to “tune” the overall system and all of our various microphones. Many thanks to Brian who did the installation, and developed the new front end controls that adjust the volume of mics on Sunday mornings.

Personal: I was able to spend some time in Ohio with my extended family over the New Year’s holiday, and am hoping to make my way to Massachusetts sometime this winter to see my child, who wasn’t able to make it to Ohio. It was a lovely visit, but sadly, I brought back a souvenir respiratory virus! (I’m fine now!)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth+

January 14, 2024

Associate Rector Report, January 2025 Vestry Mtg.

December was all about Advent and Christmas! Here are some summaries of things I was involved in:

Parish Council

In December we gathered at the rectory for a festive potluck dinner. We celebrated the ministries of Alex Thomas (Hospitality Co-Chair) and Elizabeth Patterson (Welcome Chair) as they are rotating off Parish Council next month. The great news is that Isao Sugano has accepted our invitation to become the new Hospitality Co-Chair, along with current Co-Chair Georg Rice, beginning in February. I am in the process of facilitating this transition. Elizabeth is working with the Invite-Welcome-Connect team to discern how the Welcome Chair position on Parish Council needs to be tweaked now that we have this new ministry. We had the first Parish Council meeting of the year a couple of weeks ago and discussed the 2025 calendar as well as prep for the Annual Report. I am beginning to work on February's Leadership Retreat which will have more of a "retreat" feel this time.

FARO Center hot lunch

In December, our meal day landed on 12/26 so we ordered pizza and Nancy Knight, along with her family members, delivered home-made Christmas cookies. So many people were thrilled. The volunteers each month include a nice combination of some repeats and some newcomers.

Worship

I continue to preach regularly and plan liturgy along with Elizabeth and Tom.

Compline is going great, with a record attendance of 90 people last week. Many of these people do not attend Sunday morning services, so it continues to be a great outreach to the wider community, and is also bringing in young adults.

Pastoral Care

I continue to meet with parishioners throughout the month, in-person, on the phone, and in the hospital. I attend our weekly pastoral care meeting as well. The YOLO group is doing great, under the skilled leadership of Michael Arnold. Bouquet Blessings is back and running now that Christmas is behind us.

Sacraments

I am currently meeting with 2 couples for pre-marital counseling for their weddings this year. It was an honor to preside at Deb Molnar's memorial service in December.

Wider Community

I continue to serve as Treasurer for the Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association. Elizabeth and I have been supporting parishioner Jax Robinson Ranck and the Labyrinth committee in organizing an “Inauguration of Love” on 1/19, 1/20.

Personal

I traveled with my family to northern Idaho for some time in the snow with Mitch’s side of the family. It was wonderful to be with the whole family, especially having the girls home from college.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector.

Senior Warden Report

December, 2024

My primary efforts have been following up on the Invite Welcome Connect Ministry. Susan Krutzsch and I have taken up shepherding the integration of this new ministry. I am also preparing for the New Vestry.

Welcome Team support:

One major project I have been working on with Susan Krutzsch and Betty Wenzel is expanding the Greeter and Usher teams. We have fourteen new greeters and five new ushers, and Betty has integrated them into the schedule. I have revised and updated The Greeters' Manual. Our next step is finding new leadership for the Welcome Ministry.

Connect Team Support:

I am a member of the "Small Groups" Working Team, which Michael Arnold convenes. We aim to enhance current small groups, support leaders, and explore Home Groups as a long-term goal. We are planning a small group leader training on the Saturday after Easter. The theme will be "Best Practices for Deepening Connection and Purpose." The target audience will be leaders and/or current small groups and ministry participants.

New Vestry Orientation:

I have been attending to the details of integrating our new Vestry members. Elizabeth and I are planning the Vestry Orientation, updating the notebooks, and planning the next Leadership Retreat.

On a personal note:

Over the Christmas holiday, I spent some quality time with my son, Christopher. He came with me to the Christmas Eve service, and on Sunday morning, with Doug and Kate, I got to hear him sing. We also went to see Wicked together. This is a "must-see" on the big screen if you haven't already.

Blessings,

Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

VESTRY REPORT

January 2025

Trinity Church Building & Grounds Report As Submitted to Vestry Clerk by Mark Ismond, Junior Warden

Building & Grounds Committee: Chair: Mark Ismond

Committee: Sue Adams, Rob Forsyth, Patsy Stadelman, Stephen Singleton, and Steve Thompson.

There are only a couple of updates from our last Committee meeting on November 11, 2024, meeting,

1. The wrought iron fencing to the exterior stairwell on the Micheltorena Street side of the church was installed by Chapala Iron, for the approved amount of \$8550. Chapala Iron has donated the handrail to the Chapel side entrance, in the amount of \$1,200. Painting of the fence is pending, to be completed in-house project by the Church.
2. The replacement of the light fixture lighting the sanctuary stain glass window above the high alter was replaced with private funds as follows:

Randal Day & Billy Hurbaugh: \$250.

Susan & Paul Zink: \$435.

Ismond & Thompson: \$435.

Current and New Projects:

We are excited to start the newly approved Capital projects in 2025. The next B & G meeting will be February 11, 2025 and all are welcome to attend.