

Rector's Report for June 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

Adult formation: Sarah and I finished up Episcopal 101 classes, and have plans to offer a prep class in early fall for those wishing to be confirmed or received during Bp Frank Brookhart's visit on September 20 (there'll be separate sessions with the youth who wish to be confirmed). // I'm working on getting another story circle group together in conjunction with the Austin Story Project. // The Adult Formation group is getting together in the next few weeks to make plans for the 2026-27 program year. // I'm looking forward to participating in the upcoming book study and potluck dinner event with the Islamic Society.

Children/Youth/YA: This year's Pentecost Sunday celebration was guided by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum, focused on each of us claiming our gifts of the Spirit (descriptions of those gifts by the Level 3 CGS students). // We celebrated Graduation Sunday on June 7, recognizing not only those graduating high school, but also everyone who is shifting levels within the Church School. The day was capped off with an all-family picnic at Alameda Park. Graduation Sunday means the end of CGS for the year, and the beginning of the Summer Sacred Arts programming. CGS will resume at kickoff Sunday on September 13.

Pastoral Care/Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 14 people for pastoral care and/or newcomer visits.

Worship: I already mentioned the celebration of Pentecost (see Children/Youth), but haven't yet mentioned that the 10am service included the baptism of 4 people (two school aged children and two babies). It was also the choir's last Sunday, before their summer break. Tom has lined up a variety of musicians for the summer, including vocalists, instrumentalists, and on Juneteenth Sunday (6/21), the Inner Light Gospel Choir. // I was privileged to serve as officiant at the wedding of Sarah McCarter's daughter (Julia) and now-son-in-law, Clint, at a beautiful outdoor venue near the Jesusita Trail trailhead.

Leadership/Financial things: I met with Michael Dean about his retirement from the investment committee, and I'm working on someone to take over as convener of that group. Michael is also going to be meeting with the wardens, to make sure that they know how to access the safe in addition to Michael, whose job it is on the counting team to open the safe. Michael is also working on a backup plan for the counting team while he's on vacation later this summer. // You'll be hearing more about this during the Vestry meeting, but the wardens and I met with Vandersall Consulting earlier this

month, to get our collective questions answered about their proposal around a Strategic Filter process and a money narrative retreat. // Cami and I will begin work on a draft of the 2027 budget in July - this is to help come up with the target number for pledging for annual giving, which will kick off in early October. // Jay Casbon and I met to plan the next steps in the Legacy Giving process, which will be focused on education for the congregation about estate planning and different tools to be part of Legacy Giving.

Broader church and community: In a recent sermon (6/7), I mentioned a meeting that Sarah and I attended, organized by one of the members of the SB clergy association, with two leaders in the ICE organization. (If you missed that Sunday, you can find the sermon video online, as well as the text of my sermon.). // Susan and Paul Zink oversaw the making on Care Kits on Trinity Sunday, May 31.

Other: Last week, members of the three discernment committees currently underway met with Cameron Johnson, the co-chair of the diocesan Commission on Ministry to get clarity about the next steps in the process, and an understanding of various deadlines. // I'm involved in a couple of Continuing Ed opportunities, attending a series of online presentations by theologian Amy-Jill Levine, who's talking about misunderstandings Christians may have about Judaism, both ancient and modern. I'll also be attending a workshop through Westmont's Gaede Institute, on Incarnational Preaching. // We've begun planning for the 2026 Cookie Walk, and had our first organizing meeting of the season last Saturday. // I'm grateful to all the people who've been part of the Great Dungeon Cleanout, but most especially to Georgia Noble and Jane and Rob Forsyth who had this idea and have been the driving force behind making it happen. Our building is much lighter now!! (Lots of trash, lots of stuff given away, lots of recycling).

Personal: For about a week, I was reminded of just how important running water is in my daily life, as my water was shut off for several days! There was a leak in the waterline coming into my house, which necessitated 3 visits by plumbers to get it resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
June 20, 2026
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, June 2026 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

The Parish council met for its monthly meeting. We engaged in some spiritual formation and did a ministry check-in. We took some time at the end of the meeting for members to share how our meeting structure is serving them and how we could adapt to their needs. It was a good gathering.

Justice and Outreach Council (JOC)

JOC met for their monthly meeting. They are working on mapping out the grant discernment process for 2026 as well as continuing to clarify mission, vision, and process. On June 7th, co-chairs Brian and Ralph (along with me) hosted an info session for parishioners interested in potentially joining JOC. It was a wonderful meeting with interested people. JOC will take on 3 new members this month and onboard the rest (maybe 4 more) in January once older members rotate off.

Supper Club is going well. Relationships are deepening and we always have plenty of volunteers. Transition House is going well also.

Adult Formation

Elizabeth and I finished up our 4-class series of Episcopal 101. The turnout was significantly smaller than when we offer it in the fall. We had to do it this way since the bishop will be doing confirmations at Trinity in September. That left no room to do the class in the fall. When possible, we will likely return to doing the class in the fall since May is a busy time for people. I also finished my 6-week story circle, part of the Austin Story Project. It was a meaningful experience and I hope to offer this again or on a broader parish-wide scale at some point.

Pastoral Care

I meet with many parishioners to offer pastoral care at home, in my office, in the hospital, and at coffee shops. The Bouquet Blessings ministry is going well, but we could use a lay leader to coordinate it. A small group of lay eucharistic visitors bring Communion to people in their homes. There are still plenty of prayer shawls ready to be given.

Compline

We are in the middle of our summer break and I am working on my list of storytellers for our 5th season which will begin in September. I had the volunteers ("sacristans") over to my house for a celebrative time of thanks on Saturday night June 20th.

Invite/Welcome/Connect

At the time of this writing, the group is about to meet and will discuss plans for the future of this ministry. So many good ripples have come of it so far.

Sacraments

I finished my last premarital session with a couple I am marrying in August.

Personal

In early July, my family will be traveling to visit Maddie in London. The five of us will travel a bit together and it will be so special. Mitch just got his first book published as an editor – a collection of short plays written by up-and-coming young playwrights that he commissioned for the project. I am headed to the Getty for an opening reception of an exhibit highlighting the legacy of my family's art gallery in Los Angeles. My dad is the third generation running this gallery and the exhibit will honor him, but also look with critique at the ways the gallery (and many art collectors in America in those days) took advantage of a lack of laws that protected the art of ancient cultures. It will be interesting!

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report

June 2026

It feels like we're solidly in Ordinary Time, Green Time, which also feels quite extraordinary these days. I'm so grateful to have a community that anchors me, nurtures me, and inspires me to action every single week.

The Executive Committee continues to talk with Vandersall Collective, a consulting firm with strong ties to the Episcopal Church, about the prospects of working on two projects with Trinity. One project is to develop a "strategic filter" that takes into account our values which Trinity can integrate into its decision making process. Another is to run a "Money Narrative Retreat" which will help Trinity's leaders discern their own stories about money and how they contribute to our corporate decision making around money and investments.

There is some discernment happening around Invite, Welcome, Connect, which is a program at Trinity that began a couple of years ago and has borne lots of fruit in our parish. The steering committee will meet later this month to discuss how best to move forward with this model at Trinity.

You would have thought we were having the city's largest tag sale this week as the Parish Hall was covered with stuff that had been brought out from under the stage. Thank you to everyone who brought out, sorted, and found new homes for what was stored there, from candles to tables to mid-century cooking appliances.

Our sanctuary was bursting at the seams for our Juneteenth celebration on Sunday, June 21. Thanks so much to Dr. Michelle Petty for her honest and heartfelt sermon, which caused me to reflect on how my economic and social choices contribute to continued oppression here in the United States and around the world. Thanks also to the Inner Light Gospel Choir for their rousing musical contributions. We were swaying and clapping in the pews and the aisles for the postlude!

Personally, I am quite overwhelmed with harvesting all of the seeds that I have planted in my life. They seem to be maturing all at once! Only a week more or so until "all the hay is in the barn". If you see me, feel free to ask me about it. I'm glad to share.

Blessings, Brian Bargiel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN
REPORT TO VESTRY

June, 2026

We had several more Building and Grounds Committee meetings. The focus, at this point, is working on a list of projects that includes previously approved activities. The intention to meet every other week until there is a complete list of “projects” submitted to, and approved by, the Vestry. We agreed to have a preliminary list ready for the next Vestry Meeting.

We also had Theo Patterson as a guest to one of our meetings. He made a presentation to us about using grant funds to create an outdoor meeting space off the kitchen. Stephen and Patsy had good questions. Theo agreed to work a little more on the project.

As previously stated, the committee consists of Chris Mollkoy, Patsy Price, Stephen Singleton, and me. Chris serves as Chair. Together, Patsy and Stephen have great “institutional knowledge”. Eventually, the goal would be to expand the size of the committee. However, until the projects are approved, a small committee is judged an advantage. Trying to bring new members up to speed would likely slow things down.

On Tuesday, 15 June, I attended a meeting of our Executive Committee. Also in attendance were; Sarah McCarter, Clerk; (by Zoom) Keith Cobell, Treasurer; Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector, and Elizabeth Molitors, Rector. We discussed the Vandersall proposal to assist Trinity in developing tools to make decisions and, more specifically, how to view our budget and reserves. We will recommend that Vestry approve the proposal. The rest of the meeting was primarily focused on the agenda for our upcoming Vestry meeting. All in all, it was a productive meeting with good discussion.

Respectfully,
Michael Neal Arnold
Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry
June 24, 2026

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot: June 2026

Income and Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	86,772.03	72,550.00
Expenses	82,472.15	86,289.09
Net Income	4,299.88	(13,739.09)

Notes

- **Operating surplus running well ahead of plan.** Through May, the parish is at a net surplus of \$103,151 versus a budgeted \$73,744, and May itself posted a \$4,300 gain in a month budgeted to lose \$13,739. This is partly genuine strength (pledge income is strong) and partly timing - some expenses haven't hit yet. So while this isn't a permanent cushion, it certainly is a strength.
- **Pledge income is strong and ahead of budget.** May pledges came in at \$77,151 against a \$65,000 target (119%), and year-to-date pledges are \$426,066 versus a \$415,837 budget. With 42% of the year elapsed, 47% of the annual pledge budget is collected. What a statement about the congregation's generosity: our giving is pacing ahead of expectations.
- **Investments recovered after a March dip.** Endowment funds fell in March (down \$139K, "all funds decreased in market value") but rebounded - May saw all funds rise \$79K, and the three endowments (Brackenbury, Looking Beyond Ourselves, Mark Asman Progressive Theology) now total \$3,050,362, above the year-start \$2,872,607. Total investments sit at \$3.42M. Good news.
- **Two timing items that make expenses look artificially low - and will normalize.** (a) Clergy benefits are running well under budget because they were paid in advance during the diocese's switch to a new payment system, and the diocese hasn't yet billed for new salaries - that catch-up is coming later this year. (b) Plant Maintenance is under budget partly because the commercial insurance invoice shifted from March into April. Important for us to be aware of when these expense categories normalize.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
June 19, 2026

For any questions or comments:
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