

Rector's Report for March 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

Adult formation: The last session of the 5 week Lenten Series on psalms takes place 3/25. The sessions have continued to be well attended (40+ participants), and I'm grateful to our planning team (Caryl Carbon, Gary Hall, Tom Joyce, and Georgia Noble + me) for their work, imagination, and expertise in helping folks connect more deeply with this part of scripture. // In anticipation of a bishop's visit in September, which will include the sacrament of confirmation, Sarah and I will be conducting Episcopal 101 classes (which are open to anyone, but are especially appropriate for those interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal church) during the summer, rather than our usual time of September/October (which would be after the bishop's visit). // Sarah and I met with the YOLO (You Only Live Once) planning team over lunch at Vista Del Monte, to get an update on the group, and some of the topics they've been discussing.

Children/Youth/Young Adult: The youth groupers and the adult chaperones who visited the La Cobina migrant shelter in Mexicali last month gave a presentation about their trip during a special post-church forum on March 8. // The Watershed (young adult) group met on March 1 for a shared meal, Eucharist, and discussion and reflection about some alternative Stations of the Cross images created by artist Scott Erickson.

Pastoral Care/Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 7 people for pastoral care and/or newcomer visits.

Worship: When I was writing this report last month, we had just entered the season of Lent, and now Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. We're looking forward to a rich, full week of special liturgies, including multiple baptisms at the Easter Vigil. // Clergy from Trinity organized and led a memorial service at Samarkand for longtime Trinity parishioner, Mary Weston. // I did a "blessing of a civil marriage" rite for a couple - currently living in Sacramento - who were visiting Santa Barbara. The bride had attended Trinity as a young child, and both her parents and grandparents were married at Trinity.

Leadership/Financial things: The newly re-formed Legacy Giving Committee met at the end of February, and is planning an event in early May to recognize current Legacy Circle members, and to encourage others to include Trinity in their estate planning. // The Investment Committee met last week with Mission Wealth for a review of 2025 investment results, and to hear about 2026 projections. // We had a wonderful leadership retreat (vestry + parish council) at the beginning of March, with dinner at the rectory on Friday night, and some small group storytelling exercises on Saturday, connecting our personal stories with the stories of Jesus. Many thanks to Sarah Thomas for organizing this rich and wonderful event. // I met with Jeff Krutzsch earlier this week, to discuss his taking on leadership of the Worship Council (which is really an organizational umbrella encompassing all the various ministries that support our liturgies, I.e. ushers, readers, lay Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, etc. Jeff offered an enthusiastic

'yes' to succeeding Jeannie Christensen as Worship chair, and so we will be seeing him back on Parish Council.

Broader church and community: I, along with two dozen+ Trinity members, were guests of the Islamic Society for an Interfaith Iftar dinner on Sunday evening, March 8. At sundown, we shared dates, olives, and water with those who'd been fasting all day, and then we were invited to observe or participate in their evening prayer service, followed by a wonderful meal of Egyptian food. A dessert buffet was provided by the visitors to the dinner. Members of the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Unitarian, and Sikh faith communities were present. // I was pleased to serve as the preacher at the service of consecration on March 14 for my dear friend, now the Rt. Rev. Shay Craig, bishop of North Dakota. Although the travel logistics were challenging (weather delays and oversold flights), it was wonderful to be part of this special event, and to catch up with a number of old friends and colleagues from the Diocese of Chicago.

Personal: Plans are finalized for some post-Easter travel with my brother and sister-in-law. We're meeting in Phoenix, and will spend a few days in the area exploring Saguaro National Park, Sedona, and the Grand Canyon.

Respectfully submitted,
March 20, 2026
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, March 2026 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

The Parish Council did not have a meeting in March because we spent a weekend together, along with the vestry, at our bi-annual leadership retreat. I planned and led the retreat and this year our theme was *Storytelling in Community: how the patterns of our lives follow the liberative pattern of Jesus' life*. We sang, prayed, and shared stories of our lives, noticing how the pattern of Jesus' life is reflected in our own. It was a wonderful time together.

Justice and Outreach Council (JOC)

JOC meets again in April (after a break in March) to begin good work around shaping up group norms and goals for this year. We are working on creating more turnover in members to allow space for new voices, as this council represents the whole parish in its decisions around justice grants and justice engagement.

Supper Club is going great, with a nice flow of regular parishioners and new ones.

Hospitality Council

I am supporting co-chairs Georg and Isao in their prep for the hospitality work of Holy Week. Isao is also working on finding more Coffee Hour Helpers, as two people have moved on from this ministry.

Adult Formation

Austin Story Project: Elizabeth and I are participating in a nation-wide network of congregations trying out a story circle process. We have committed to leading 3 6-week story circle small groups sometime between now and October. The vestry and parish council got a taste of this process at the leadership retreat. Elizabeth and I are in the process of inviting people into these groups. There is a lot of potential in this process for community building and faith formation.

I have been attending the Lenten Series and helping out in little ways, but it is fun to just show up as a participant! I have been loving the evenings with wonderful content and deepening relationships.

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 on pause for Lent. A group of prayer shawls is waiting to be blessed. Helping Hands continues to offer meal trains from time to time. A small group of lay eucharistic visitors bring Communion to people in their homes.

Elizabeth and I met with the leaders of the YOLO group (You Only Live Once), a weekly Zoom group for people over 70. The group is meeting a real need and is going very well. Irene Marsi is leaving the leadership team while staying an active member of the group, and Dane Goodman is joining current leaders Michael Neal Arnold and Jean Davis.

Compline

Our March Compline was wonderful with SB poet laureate George Yatchisin as our storyteller. There were about 75 people in attendance.

Sacraments

I am currently working with one couple in pre-marital counseling. I led a baptism prep session (along with Theo Patterson and Vanessa Woods) for 1 adult, 2 teens and 2 kids. Some will be baptized at the Easter Vigil and some at Pentecost. I presided at Mary Weston's memorial service at the Samarkand chapel, and I am currently working with one family in preparing for a memorial service in April (Sylvia Salazar Simpson, the mother of a former parishioner).

Worship

Much of our time is being spent preparing for the Holy Week liturgies and events!

Community Outreach

I attended the memorial service of Rev. Toni Stuart who was a member of St. Mike's, Isla Vista. Toni was a wonderful mentor to me when I was a field education student at St. Mike's while in seminary.

Personal

Zoe is home for Spring Break so we are enjoying her!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry March 24, 2026

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot: February 2026

Income and Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	112,923.33	66,800
Expenses	90,603.13	90,046.49
Net Income	22,320.20	(23,246.49)

Notes

- **Pledge income continues to be strong.** Pledge payments hit \$221,731 year to date (YTD) against a budget of \$180,837 - 122.6% of budget. February alone came in at 167% of budget. This generosity is the foundation of everything Trinity does, and this pace, if sustained, puts us well ahead of the \$899,837 annual pledge target.
- **We're running well ahead of budget overall.** Our YTD Net Ordinary Income is \$137,524 vs. a budgeted \$85,073 - 162% of plan. Expenses are actually *under* budget YTD at 97.7%. This favorable combination of strong income and disciplined spending gives Trinity a financial cushion heading into the spring and summer months when income traditionally softens.
- **The Balance Sheet is solid.** Total assets stand at \$4.08 million with no real liabilities. Schwab investment accounts total \$3.31M and all investment funds increased in market value in February. The endowment funds alone - Brackenbury, Looking Beyond Ourselves, and Mark Asman Progressive Theology - total nearly \$2.96M, providing long-term financial stability for the parish's mission.
- **A note on timing variances.** A few line items look off (Clergy over in February, Children & Youth under) but these are largely timing issues - retro pay adjustments, seasonal programs, and a pay-period anomaly. Cami (our Business Manager) has accounted for each variance in her narrative, and none represent unexpected or uncontrolled spending.
- **Bottom line for the community:** Trinity is in excellent financial shape through February - income well ahead of plan, expenses disciplined, and a strong asset base.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
March 21, 2026

For any questions or comments:
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Senior Warden Report March 2026

I continue to become more familiar with the goings-on at Trinity, attending both my first Executive Committee meeting and first Vestry meeting of the year. I am grateful for the warmth and welcome that I have received from existing Vestry members and very much look forward to working with them in the months ahead.

We had our first Leadership Retreat of the year, where Vestry and Parish Council members met at the Rectory one Friday evening for fellowship over a delicious meal prepared by Elizabeth, followed the next day by a workshop led by Sarah. The workshop featured material on story circles that is part of a larger, grant-funded project at Trinity. I'm excited to see how this project continues to unfold. Stay tuned!

After the Invite, Welcome, Connect steering committee meeting in January, I was able to meet with Betty Wenzel to brainstorm and refine some ideas around communicating with parishioners and our wider community about all that is happening at Trinity.

I have offered to help Rev. Sarah and Ralph Armbruster with some transitional leadership for the Justice and Outreach Committee. JOC is a strong part of Trinity's legacy in our community and I look forward to lending my abilities to this important part of our parish life.

Other Projects and Activities:

- We are moving ever closer to installing an upgraded pan tilt zoom camera to further improve our streaming and recording facilities. The new camera will be a more powerful, flexible, and aesthetically pleasing addition to the sanctuary.
- I continue to work with Elizabeth to investigate the possibility of applying for a grant to upgrade our building security systems
- A prototype web form for reporting issues with buildings and grounds is under review by Chris Mollkoy and Michael Arnold before being posted to the website.
- Music for Holy Week is shaping up well under Tom's leadership. The choir will be spending a lot of time at Trinity - please show your appreciation for all of the singers as you are able.

Please track me down if there is anything I can do for you and our community.

Blessings,
Brian Bargiel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN
REPORT TO VESTRY

March, 2026

On Tuesday, 17 March, I attended a meeting of our Executive Committee. Also in attendance were; Sarah McCarter, Clerk; (by Zoom) Keith Cobell, Treasurer; Elizabeth Molitors, Rector; and Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector.

We had a productive meeting with good discussion. It was primarily focused on the agenda for our upcoming Vestry meeting.

Earlier in the month, Chris Mollkoy, the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and I exchange emails regarding establishing a way for parishioners to report items and issues to the Building and grounds Committee. We agreed that publishing our names and contact info in the Worship bulletin and weekly newsletter would be a good start.

I reported our decision to our Rector and Senior Warden. Brien responded saying he could set up a link on the Trinity website for parishioner reporting of issues to the Building and Grounds Committee. Brian recently informed me that the link has been set up. As soon as Chris and I approve, it will be activated.

Chris intends to schedule a committee meeting soon. I will follow up with him on that.

Respectfully,
Michael Neal Arnold
JuniorWarden