

Rector's Report for May 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

Adult formation: Episcopal 101 began this past Sunday (we've shifted the class from the fall to late Spring in order to prepare for the bishop's visit in September). // Sarah and I continue to meet with our Austin Story Project cohort, and make plans for conducting three 6-week story groups before October (which is when we next attend the Austin Story Project conference).

Children/Youth/Young Adult: Sunday 5/17 was Children and Youth Sunday, with children "shadowing" the various liturgical ministries (ushers, greeters, hospitality, readers, LEMs, choir, etc.). The Youth Group presented the theme of "unity," drawn from that day's gospel, in the form of a Family Feud-style game show. // The Youth Group had their annual overnigher event, and invited me to share Eucharist with them in the late evening. // In early May, we had our last Watershed (Young Adult dinner church) event for the program year, where we looked at and discussed Stations of Resurrection.

Pastoral Care/Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 10 people for pastoral care and/or newcomer visits. // I hosted a Newcomer Brunch at the rectory, with a great crowd attending (19 newcomers + 6 established members to help mingle and facilitate conversation).

Worship: See the Children and Youth section for a recap of Children and Youth Sunday. // I conducted a memorial service for Bob Muhr. Bob's widow, Joan, discovered Trinity after attending the Blue Christmas service held in December, just a week or so after her husband's death. The service was small but meaningful, and we adapted the sanctuary space to accommodate the small size of the group. Joan and her family very much appreciated the service, and Joan has begun to attend Sunday worship at Trinity - it turns out she knows a bunch of Trinity folks! // I did a graveside memorial for Gary Batten, whose parents attended Trinity in the 1970s and early 80s. The next of kin, Dennis, was the deceased's brother in law; Gary and Dennis's husband were identical twins. // Sarah and Tom and I met to do liturgy planning through the end of June. // This Sunday - the Feast of Pentecost - will be the choir's last Sunday before they take their summer hiatus. We'll be baptizing 4 people - 2 infants, and 2 school-aged children. It's been lovely to spend time with the families of the infants these past couple of weeks, doing the baptism prep. // During this Eastertide season, we (Sarah, Tom, Betty, me) took time to do a thorough debrief of all the Holy Week services, noting things to change or amend or continue next year. Sarah and I also met with Christine Purcell to discuss and make notes about improving the process for next year's Lenten Reflections booklet.

Leadership/Financial things: The Finance Committee met in person to do a review of the first quarter financials. We've decided to meet in person for quarterly meetings, and in the in-between months, we'll do our review and ask questions via email. // The Legacy Giving Committee hosted a reception/event on the labyrinth for current Legacy Circle members. Attendees enjoyed refreshments, made connections with one another, heard from Jay Casbon and me about future plans for expanding the Circle, beginning with revisions to promotional materials, and an all-church education event around estate planning and planned giving, date TBD. // Many thanks to Parish Council, Vestry, and other ministry leaders for their participation in the annual Ministry Fair, held May 3 after both services. There was great turnout, and quite a few people expressed their wishes to get more involved. Leaders are following up now with the new volunteers, to take the next steps in following up and getting folks on-boarded in their ministry area.

Broader church and community: Sarah Thomas, John Draper and I attended the annual diocesan clergy conference in Riverside, held at the Mission Inn. The conference was a chance to say thank you and bid farewell to Bishop John Taylor, welcome Bishop-Elect Antonio Gallardo L, and spend time learning more about the principles and theological underpinnings of the Sacred Resistance movement. // I'm grateful to the 10 or so people who were able to show up today (5/22) in support of and solidarity with the people of the Islamic Society of SB, during their regular weekly Friday prayer service, in the wake of the deadly attack on the Islamic Society in San Diego. // Sarah and I traveled to All Saints by the Sea earlier this week, to attend the Deanery 1 deanery meeting.

Personal: I was happy to attend the UCSB Arts and Lectures event with Terry Tempest Williams, in conversation with Pico Iyer. I wasn't previously familiar with Williams, but after hearing her speak, several of her books are now on my book reading list! // Today was the last meeting of the semester for the printmaking class I take at SBCC. Although I won't have access to a press during the summer, I have several art projects lined up for the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
May 22, 2026
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, May 2026 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

Parish Council did a terrific job on Ministry Fair! Kudos and many thanks to Jeffrey Krutzsch for his extra effort with the set-up. Each table was bustling with lay leaders and newcomers. There were delicious snacks and even a science-fair-esque project created by Brian Bargiel at the JOC table to gauge justice interests. Parish Council members have reached out to all the people who signed up with interest. Thank you to the Vestry members who supported this effort.

Justice and Outreach Council (JOC)

The Ministry Fair drummed up a lot of interest in JOC. Brian, Ralph, and I are planning an informational meeting in early June for people interested in JOC. This council is honing its membership requirements and mission statement.

Supper Club went great last week with wonderful attendance and it is clear that friendships are being built over time. **Transition House** continues to buzz along with different teams providing monthly meals.

Sacraments

I am working with one couple in pre-marital counseling and planning their August wedding. I got to baptize one baby and one child at Pentecost!

Adult formation

I am currently in the middle of leading a **Story Circle** and it is so wonderful. I hope to do another one in coming months, time permitting. (This is a project Elizabeth and I are part of as a grant through Austin Theological Seminary).

Elizabeth and I have begun teaching 4 weeks of Episcopal 101 to newcomers. This is our first time offering it in the Spring, since the bishop will be visiting in the early fall.

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.

Compline

We had a wonderful last Compline of the season with parishioner Eva Braunstein as the storyteller. Compline takes a break for the summer, but I am having the "sacristans" (lay volunteers) over to my house in early June to celebrate the end of our 4th year.

Larger Community

Elizabeth and I traveled to Riverside in early May for our annual diocesan Clergy Conference. The topic was Sacred Resistance and it was an inspiring time of fellowship and learning. We said farewell to Bishop John Taylor and welcomed Bishop Elect Antonio Gallardo L.

On May 1, a group of 9th graders from Santa Barbara Middle School visited Trinity. I spent an hour with them answering questions about Christianity and Tom even played them a few tunes on the organ. A few days later, I was invited to the school, along with Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Iman Wael Hegazy for our second annual visit to the 9th grade class to discuss our faiths. It was a wonderful interfaith experience and I feel honored that Trinity is the church the school has chosen to connect with!

Elizabeth and I joined our local deanery gathering on May 20th, which took place at All Saints-by-the-Sea. It was wonderful to see our colleagues from around this northern part of the diocese.

On May 22, I joined many people in the community in an interfaith act of solidarity at the Islamic Center of Santa Barbara in response to the horrific shooting that took place at a mosque in San Diego. It was a gathering of joy and support and it meant a lot to all of us, as well as to those arriving for worship at the mosque.

Personal

Mitch is traveling to Armenia and Romania for 2 weeks to perform King Lear with a group of actors. This means our doggie Coconut will be spending more time in my office. Come by and say hello! Gwyneth is wrapping up 9th grade with a couple weeks of cooking classes and spending time serving at non-profits around Santa Barbara with her classmates.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report May 2026

Thanks to our many volunteers, organizers, set up and take down crews, and our parish at large, our Ministry Fair was a great success. Betty Wenzel, Director of Communications, distributed over four pages of volunteer contact information to the leaders of the various ministries in attendance. Thanks especially to Jeffrey and Susan Krutzsch and Carlos Ruano, our stalwart Sexton, for their help in creating such a wonderful event.

The following weekend saw a more intimate gathering on the labyrinth, as several current members of Trinity's Legacy Society met to honor the parishioners and friends whose planned gifts sustain Trinity's mission for years to come. The group shared light refreshments and shared their reasons for including Trinity in their estate planning. There is some real momentum gathering around this project, thanks to Jay Casbon and others who will be bringing valuable workshops and resources to our community about estate planning in general and different ways to support Trinity.

As I write this, the choir has held its last rehearsal for the season. While the choir will be taking a hiatus, several of its members will be contributing their musical talents on Sundays throughout the summer. A special thanks to our music director Tom Joyce, our section leaders, bell ringers, piano, harpsichord, organ, and accordion (yes, even the accordion) players, and our entire chancel choir for bringing such excellent leadership to our Sunday worship services. Hug a choir member (with consent!) and say thanks!

We have installed a new, upgraded camera for livestreaming our services on Sunday. Dozens of people each week watch our services live, and many more watch the recording throughout the week. Thanks to our Stream Team for providing the means for our homebound and vacationing to share the music, words, and joy of our Sunday worship. We're always looking for new Stream Team members - talk to Betty!

There are only one or two weeks left to leave a note for our high school graduates. Even if you don't know them, putting a little post-it in their Bibles will help remind them of how big their Trinity family is and that they are always welcome back home. PS Definitely put one in Ruby Bargiel's Bible.

I'm looking forward to this upcoming "green time" when we can enjoy the fruits of our labor together over these last many months.

Blessings, Brian Bargiel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN
REPORT TO VESTRY

May, 2026

On Tuesday, 12 May, we had our first Building and Grounds Committee meeting. At this point the committee consists of Chris Mollkoy, Patsy Price, Stephen Singleton, and me. Chris serves as Chair. Our first meeting was spent largely getting our bearings. We shared our backgrounds with Buildings and Grounds and talked a bit about how the committee will function. We discussed adding members but decided getting a current project list developed was our first priority. We took a look at the Projects List provided by our Rector. It includes historic projects completed, partially completed, and not started.

On Wednesday, 20 May, we had our second Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. We spent most of the meeting reviewing the projects list provided by the Rector. We started identifying which were most important. Patsy and Stephen were invaluable in providing background on each of the items. We started putting them in categories; Longer Term Projects, Things needing immediate attention, The Rectory, etc. We also agreed that we needed to be able to identify which projects have received previous Vestry approval and which projects needed new Vestry approval. We agreed to meet next on 2 June with the intention of developing a final list.

On Tuesday, 18 May, 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 had a guest, Lucy Bell, who made a presentation regarding the banners hanging in the church. The Executive Committee encouraged her to develop her ideas a little more and make a presentation to the Vestry at our next meeting. 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

Banner Project Proposal

Project Proposal

The medium *is* (sometimes) the message. The dramatic gothic spires of the bell tower, the impressive internal organ, the windows of stained glass all create a stunning experience of Trinity for a guest, new or old. For a new visitor, the decoration and adornments of the church might be an attractive quality to the parish before even getting to the good stuff– the ministries, liturgy, sermons, etc. For old timers, the decoration and adornments of the church take on new personal meanings for each of us, reminding us of certain moments of our lives, liturgical seasons, or as simple as places for our eyes to wonder in contemplation.

The 8 banners that line the wall of the sanctuary are made by Ann Mclean Mealy, Jane Hans' mother whose family has been at Trinity since the 1950's (fig 1.) When facing the altar, the banners show nativity scenes, festival motifs, and words of praise. When facing the font, they each display a cross variant.



(fig 1.)
Banners when facing the altar (taken from the font).



Banners when facing the font (taken from the altar).

This Banner Project proposes a framework in which to create a new set of double-sided banners that reflect our congregation's values. While our stained glass windows are beautiful, they are white-washed and pre-date most current attendees. Fabric banners offer an opportunity to “update” the sanctuary with more contemporary values and missions of Trinity while being low cost and easily rotatable.

Through a series of 6-7 workshops– 3-4 for adults, 3 for youth– parishioners will work through ideas and creative exercises to come up with designs and motifs for the new banners. These workshops will be facilitated by a small group of parishioners and overseen by the Rector and Associate Rector to help curate the vision. There will also be an adjoined group for assembly purposes that brings the congregation’s ideas to life. Both the old and new banners will be honored through a liturgical movement and hanging ceremony.

Project Mission

Inside the historical, adorned walls sits a unique congregation of academics, artists, priests, and other community members alike. This banner project is an opportunity for the diverse congregation to have a hand in the “beautification” of the sanctuary. Art-making and the pursuit of creativity is a spiritual practice that Trinity values in many other outlets through the Music Ministry, Summer Sacred Arts (fig 4), adult formation, screenings, Compline, and more. This Banner Projects offers an embodied, tactile visual-arts-focused series of workshops to foster our congregation's own creativity and self-expression.

In Sunday services we use all the senses: the touch of a hand in peace, the taste of the wafer and wine, the smell of the church and our neighbors, the sight of the sanctuary and ritual, the sound of the music and group prayers. The Banner project is not only about the final product– the banners which will line the sanctuary to please the eye– but also about the process of making: the conversations with congregants, the play in experimenting with materials, the drafting and trying out designs, the expression of values. The holistic, slow, and integrated approach to the Banners aims to build trust with the congregation during this transition of Banners. All of these moments in the making of the banners are important to the project and to the vitality of the congregation, so that we may all feel that the banners are in fact one body, made by we who are many. (fig 5.)



(fig 4.) 2025 Summer Sacred Arts Banner workshop. The kids made banners representing what church and faith means to them. They were asked: *What banner would you add to the sanctuary?* **This is NOT what the banners will look like, but rather an example of how to roughly workshop ideas.**



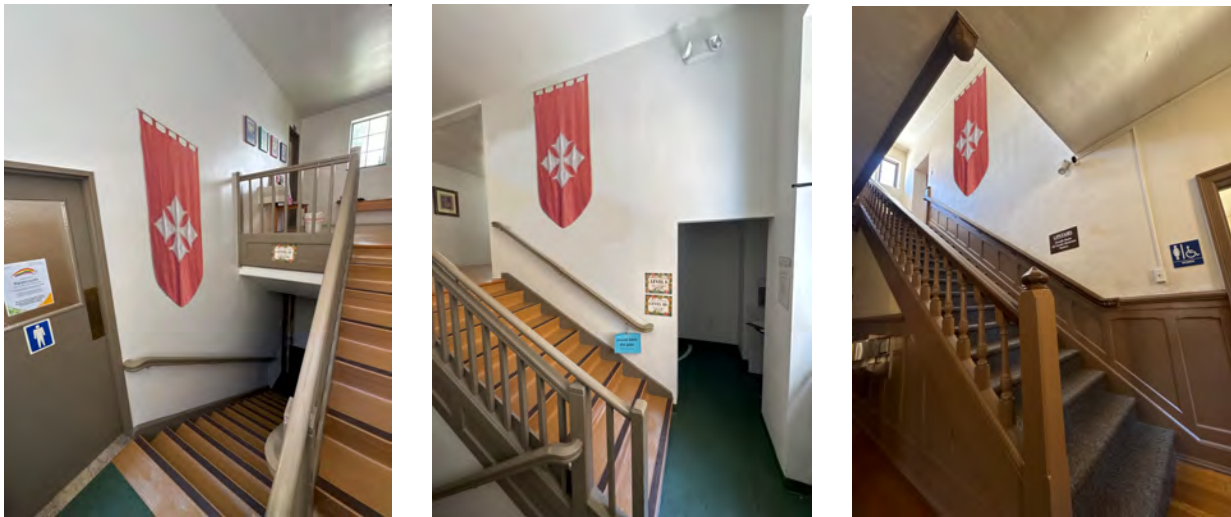
(fig. 5) Still from *Alleluia* film. Feast of Saint Mary at Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles. 1964.

Liturgical Integration

This project aims to be holistic in not just making new banners to replace the old, but to integrate education, community involvement and activity, support creativity, and tend to the spirit. Through two liturgical movements, or one combined, the banners, old and new, will be honored and recognized.

1. To remove and honor the current/old banners.
 - a. A liturgical movement must be crafted that honors their time in the sanctuary and <<Jane Hahn's Mother>> who made them. This could be a ceremonial honoring.
2. To bless the new banners
 - a. A liturgical movement to bless the new banners either before they are hung or after

There may need/want to be conversations around the old banners and if one might be hung on site somewhere, rotating, so as to not be forgotten. For example (fig) a banner could hang in a stair well to remember the labor and love that went into the "old" banners. (fig 6.)



(fig 6.) Mock-ups of banner displays in the Youth Building or Parish Hall stairwell to honor old flags.

Committees / Lay Leadership / Parish Involvement

Curatorial Committee

This project will be led by a small committee of artists that consults with and is overseen by the Rector and Associate Rector. This group will make final decisions and be the "curatorial filter." The Curatorial Committee is in charge of the overall aesthetics and execution of the project and will call in assistance from the Assembly Crew and Liturgy Committee.

Assembly Crew

The Assembly Crew may be separate from or overlap with the Curatorial Committee in that the Assembly Crew is a small group that is skilled in textile work and can fabricate the final banners.

Liturgy Committee

This project will be led by a small committee that consults with and is overseen by the Rector and Associate Rector. This group will craft the liturgical movements for the removal of the old banners and the blessing/hanging of the new banners. The Liturgy committee is overseen by the Rector and Associate Rector and consults with the Curatorial Committee.

Parish Involvement

The parish will be the foundation of the project. Through a series of workshops, our parish will create a total of 16 designs for 8 banners. The Banner Project relies heavily on parish buy-in to be involved in the ideation and creation of the banners. The Banners are meant to reflect the values of the church, not the small Curatorial Committee.

Workshops

It is an important part of this project's mission that all people of Trinity feel represented. The 6 (maybe 7) workshops will range from young children to youth to adults and to elderly. All people at Trinity have a unique creative voice and this project welcomes this, believing no matter how young or how old, these expressions are important.

Sister Corita Kent and the work she did at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles will serve as our foundation for the series of workshops. We will use her Art Department Ten Rules and consider how her call to faith and service manifested through her art practice. Her work and messages are accessible to artists and “non-artists” alike. The first workshop will start with a screening of her film and then exercises inspired by her and the teachings of other artists and spiritual leaders. (fig 7.)



(Fig 7.) Feast of Saint Mary, Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles. 1964. Unknown photographer.



FAQs

Are these going to hang up for 60 years again?

No. Hopefully this will be the first of a series of Banners Projects. The goal is not to replace these banners that have been up for 60 years with another set that will hang for 60 years, but to create an energy through the banners, keeping them rotating and alive in the sanctuary. This will be the first iteration– a “general” / “ordinary time” set of banners to ease into the change and involve the parish as much as possible. The long term goal is to have rotating banner sets to reflect liturgical seasons.

Is this a commissioned work from Lucy?

No. Lucy Bell is a parishioner and artist with their MFA from UC Santa Barbara and teach at UCSB and Slingshot Art Studio. Lucy will facilitate the project through collaborative practices, workshops, teaching, and group efforts. No single artist will be designing the banners, but rather the congregation at large.

When and how do we communicate to the congregation about this idea?

First Lucy met with Elizabeth and Sarah. Then it will be brought to the Executive meeting then Vestry for budget approval. Then the conversation about addressing the congregation will begin after the stakeholders have been notified. Stakeholders include:

- Jane Hahn
- Buildings & Grounds Committee*
 - Chris Mollkoy
 - Michael Neal Arnold (Junior Warden)
 - Stephen Singleton
 - Rob Forsyth
 - Patsy Price
 - Ben Ewart
- Vestry (Brian Bargiel, Senior Warden)
- Michelle Molkoy
- Henry Mealy

*** Buildings and Grounds Communication**

This project, while on the ground for most of its making, will eventually require machinery and equipment to install the banners in the sanctuary. Coordination with the Building and Grounds committee will begin early on to ensure that we are not redundant in tasks and that uses of a scissor lift for example can be paired with other maintenance. It will be important for the B&G Committee to be involved early on in the process as much of the labor, space allocation, and maintenance will be under their domain.

Budget

(Estimated)

Item	Cost Breakdown	Total	Notes
26' Scissor Lift	\$172.80 for the day \$100 delivery each way	\$X	Call <i>at least</i> one week in advance, scissor lifts are popular (Milpas Rentals)
Food / Bev	\$75 for 6 workshops	\$X	
Material	8 banners ~6 ft H (2.5 yards) Double sided = 40 yards = \$300 Extra fabric for appliquee (8x1yd)=\$100	\$X	Need to look at current banner material/size and get a real quote from store, fabric is not cheap, it is important we buy quality fabric so it lasts as long as possible within budget/reason
Thread and miscellaneous material		\$X	Some tools will be supplied by volunteers, but would be better to not rely totally on that
Artist Facilitation Fee*		\$X	
Total		\$X	

* Artist Facilitation Fee for Lucy Bell facilitating workshops and project as a whole.

Backwards Timeline

(Estimated / rough)

September /October 2027	Removing and Hanging Ceremony		Scissor lift needed, Logistics of when do the blessings vs when hang
June-August	Assembly		
May / June 2027	Curation, meeting with rectors, finalizing designs		
May 2027	Samarkand visit? for activity	Workshop 6	Adult / elderly focus
March-April 2027	Break for Lent / Easter		
February 2027	Youth (young) banner activity	Workshop 5	youth
January 2027	Youth (older) banner activity	Workshop 4	youth
December 2026	Break for Advent / Christmas		
November 2026	Banner workshop 3	Workshop 3	adult
October 2026	Creative exercises, banner introduction, Trinity art day (activities)	Workshop 2	adult
September 2026	Screening of "Alleluia" Sister Corita Kent short film with short liturgy, introduce project to attendees	Workshop 1	adult
June-August 2026	Committees begin meeting		
April-June 2026	Create committees		
April 2026	Draft proposal, send to executive committee		