

Rector's Report for May 28, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Worship - We finished up Holy Week at Trinity with a beautiful Easter Vigil service, including a mother and son baptism (Becca and Paul Lowi). Several people who attended the Vigil had also been part of the Lenten program, which focused on the scriptures of the Salvation History portion of the Easter Vigil, and they commented about how much more meaningful those readings were for them, because they'd spent time with them during the Lenten series. // On Easter Sunday, we saw record crowds, with over 100 people attending the 8am service, and 465 at the 10am service. Many thanks to the greeters and ushers who worked hard to find pew space or chairs for everyone who wanted to be seated. // Clergy and staff met twice in the weeks after Holy Week, in order to debrief, making notes about what worked well and what things we might want to approach differently during Holy Week 2026. // Trinity welcomed 2 guest preachers on the two Sundays after Easter: Michael Corrigan on April 27, and Kate Varley Alonso on May 4 (Kate was one of the presenters at the Climate Action Workshop on May 3). // On May 18, Trinity celebrated Children and Youth Sunday, with the youth and Director of Children and Youth, Theo Patterson, preparing and delivering the sermon at both the 8am and 10am services. The children "shadowed" the various liturgical ministers at the 10am service, including acting as ushers, greeters, readers, stream team, acolytes, presider, etc. // The Watershed Young Adult group met for its last time for the program year, in early May. We have plans to hold a couple of casual get-togethers over the summer, before resuming Sunday evening dinner church in early September. // A group of volunteer bakers got together on 5/17 to bake communion bread, which we'll resume using at the 10am service beginning in mid-June. The shaping and baking of the bread has been slightly modified to allow the bread to be intincted (dipped) into the communion wine, as we won't be resuming sipping from a common chalice at this time.

Adult Education/Formations - The adult formation planning team is meeting next week to make plans for the 2025-2026 program year. Dates have already been set for Episcopal 101, which will take place over 4 Sundays in September and early October.

Pastoral Care / Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 8 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits.

Leadership - Representatives of Trinity's various ministries hosted the annual Ministry Fair on the labyrinth after both services on May 4th. A number of new volunteers signed up to help with Children and Youth, be part of JOC action circles, serve as readers/intercessors/lay eucharistic ministers or visitors, help with hospitality, etc. // The Food with Friends team met to put together the groups which will meet over the summer.

Financial things - I participated in the Finance Committee meeting on 5/14 to review the April 2025 financials.

Weddings - In the past month, Trinity has been the site of two wedding rehearsals and weddings, and one rehearsal dinner (couple were married at a different church). All the

weddings/rehearsals/rehearsal dinners were couples from outside of Trinity, with outside officiants.

Outside building use - Besides our usual groups who use Trinity's space (CLUE, Ring Shout, AA), we welcomed the Westmont choir for a video project, and the Westmont New Frontiers group (for newer pastors).

Broader church - My work with the Bishop search committee continues (I'm on the application and interview questions team, and the candidate recruitment team). The diocesan profile will "go live" on June 2, which is when we start accepting candidate applications. // I met with Imam Wael Hagazy, of the SB Islamic Society, to discuss plans for an interfaith dinner between our two communities, later in the year (exact date TBD.)

Personal - For the first time in 16 years of ordained ministry, I took a post-Easter vacation, visiting my child in Western Massachusetts, and then spent a few days hiking in Sedona, AZ. // During my time away, Ben Ewart and his crew installed new ovens in the rectory, and prepared the space for the new pantry. After a week back in SB, I traveled with Sarah Thomas to Atlanta to attend the Festival of Homiletics, where we heard many fabulous preachers who spoke about how to fearlessly preach the gospel in these divided and contentious times. When I returned from Atlanta, I found my new pantry *almost* complete. // I attended parishioner Lucy Bell's Masters thesis (art) show at the UCSB art museum. Lucy's artwork/images are drawn from, inspired by, Trinity's sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth+

May 22, 2025

Associate Rector Report, June 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

The Parish Council worked hard to host a wonderful ministry fair, along with the huge support of senior warden Georgia Noble, Susan Krutzsch, and Betty Wenzel. We got lots of sign-ups of new folks interested in ministries and the Parish Council is currently following up with those people.

Justice and Outreach

The JOC's Climate and Environment Action Circle hosted a fantastic Climate Connections weekend. The leadership team was headed up by Bill Leahy and Jean Davis who worked very hard to put together a beautiful day of learning and formation. I supported the planning team by attending their meetings, answering questions, and supporting Kate Varley Alonso, a member of the Bishop's Commission for Climate Change. Jean Davis and Deborah Wells Ah-Tye put together a great plant-based lunch from the Organic Soup Kitchen.

The Faro Center meals continue despite recent conflict with the city. Since our last vestry meeting, we've cooked and served two meals at the center. Word has it that Trinity is their favorite church (not that it's a competition ;) -- our meal is healthy and delicious and someone who works there says she can "taste the love" in the meal. This ministry continues to include regulars and also newcomers. We know this will continue until July 31st, and I am hopeful the conflict will resolve and that the center will be able to continue its good work for this vulnerable population.

Compline

We had our final Compline of our third year and the storyteller was Eddie Ellner of Yoga Soup. The group of volunteers (whom we call the Sacristans) have really formed as a little community and I am inviting them to my home next month to thank them for their hard work this past year. I hope to use the summer to recruit storytellers for Season 4 well in advance. Compline continues to be an important space for Trinity, as it lowers the barrier for newcomers and fulfills a real spiritual need for people in the outside community.

Sacraments

I baptized Paul Lowi at the Easter Vigil, which was a real joy. I am currently working with two couples preparing them for marriage.

Pastoral Care

There has been a lot of pastoral care this past month. I met with quite a few people in homes and in the hospital as well as telephone conversations. The Bouquet Blessings ministry is back in business now that we are in Eastertide. Two new people (one youth!) has joined this ministry. I am also recruiting more Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

Community Outreach

I was invited to speak on an interfaith panel at Santa Barbara Middle School, along with Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Imam Wael Hegazy. It was a spirit-filled morning at the school with rich interfaith dialogue. The students were incredible with their questions, curiosity, and respect.

I also attended the most recent protest on May Day in support of workers' rights and other justice issues in jeopardy right now.

Continuing Education

Elizabeth and I traveled to Atlanta for the Festival of Homiletics where we heard incredible preaching. We return inspired!

Personal

Maddie is graduating from Chapman University this weekend and I am looking forward to a special weekend with family. She will be headed to London in the fall to pursue an MFA in classical acting. I am very excited for her.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report

May, 2025

Welcome Team Support:

- Betty Wenzel and I have been working to onboard John Spence as the chair of the Welcome Council and prepare for a brunch and training update with the Greeters on May 31.

Connect Team Support:

- The Ministry Fair on May 4, which Susan Krutzsch and I helped coordinate, was a success thanks to all the ministry leaders, parish council chairs, and especially Betty Wenzel, who provided all the signage and compiled the list of the 45 people who signed up for a new ministry and will be followed up on.
- We also launched another round of Food with Friends at the Ministry Fair. We formed nine groups with about sixty participants, including eight children who signed up. These groups are currently being organized and will meet over the summer.

Other projects:

- The Adult Formation team is meeting soon to plan for the summer and fall offerings.
- Susan Krutzsch and I continue to lead the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee. Our team's latest project focuses on enhancing our tracking system for new individuals joining the church.

On a personal note: I spent a lovely day in LA with my son Christopher at the Descanso Gardens.

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry

May 28, 2025

For the period of April 1-30, 2025

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot

Profit & Loss (P&L)	April	YTD
Income	68,327.42	448,633.65
Expenses	78,719.20	337,481.36
Net Income	(10,391.78)	111,152.29

- **Current cash**, as of April 30, 2025
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Operating Account: 280,606.17
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Capital Projects: 68,718.36
 - Petty Cash: 50.00
- **Schwab Investments**, value as of April 30, 2025
 - Looking Beyond Ourselves (LBO): 1,093,826.03
 - Brackenbury: 1,412,927.09
 - Reserve Funds: 306,025.45
 - Mark Asman PT Fund: 80,386.72
 - **Total: 2,893,165.29**

Notes

- **Continued positive trajectory.** We continue to trend positively according to budget v actual across all categories. For instance, we are +12% for income, and -2% for expenses. Due to healthy giving in the first four (4) months of the year we are blessed/fortunate to have a healthy net income of \$111K. On the expense side we are still seeing a larger-than-normal water bill, which the staff continues to work to find a solution for.
- **Investment fund net positive: decrease in value but compensated by dividends.** All of our investment funds saw a loss in value this month due to wider market conditions yet in general saw a net positive due to the dividends these investments paid out.

Submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
May 21, 2025

For any questions or comments:
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