Rector's Report for October 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

Worship: Bishop Brookhart visited Trinity on 9/20, and confirmed/received 19 adults and teens. There were some liturgical "bumps" at the service, but still it was a lively, lovely service. // // The choir presented Evensong to a quite full house on October 11. Several more Evensongs are scheduled throughout the coming program year. I wasn't able to attend because of travel, but I heard nothing but wonderful feedback. This is the first time in many years that an Evensong service has been offered. // I met with the Conarroe family to do baptism prep for the kids (Acadia is 5 and Avila is 2); the girls will be baptized on All Saints' Sunday, November 1. Gregory is getting his PhD at Fuller, and is a postulant for the priesthood through the diocese of NY; Jenna works as a Resident Director at Westmont, and is part of an usher team at Trinity. // As we're in the midst of our Annual Giving season, the second lesson in worship has been replaced by personal stories from parishioners about why they give to Trinity. So far, we've heard from Cathi Speake and Dan Craviotto; Melissa and Ben Ewart are scheduled to speak 10/25. // We held a Blessing of the Animals service on the labyrinth on October 2, in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. We had a good crowd - maybe about 50 people - who brought their pets (all dogs + 1 cat) and/or photos or cremated remains of beloved creatures who had died. This event continues to bring in more and more people from the neighborhood, not just Trinity parishioners. // The Altar Guild organized a sacristy clean-out, something which has never been done in anyone's memory! All the cabinets and closets were cleared out, they identified a bunch of stuff that needed to be discarded or donated, and I'll be looking at some of the still-in-decent-shape old vestments that we no longer use (some items are more than 50 years old), to see if some other church might be able to use them.

Newcomers/Pastoral Care: I met with 4 people for pastoral care/hospital visits and/or newcomer conversations.

Adult Formation: Centering Prayer has started up again, on Wednesday afternoons, led on a rotating basis by Christine Purcell, Sarah Thomas, and John Draper. // As I write this report, the 2nd of 3 sessions of the Soul of Aging series is taking place. At the first session, in September, more than 70 people participated. The series is being led by Caryl Casbon and Georgia Noble. // I'm currently leading a group through the Story Circles process - we've finished 3 of 6 scheduled sessions. Sarah Thomas and I just returned from the second half of the training for these Story Circles, through the Austin Story Project (a collaboration between Austin Seminary and Mark Yaconelli, of The Hearth). Story Circles will be the focus of our Lenten Series in 2027, with Mark Yaconelli doing our Saturday kickoff event in February.

Financial Things: We kicked off our Annual Giving season with a dinner on October 10. Pledge packets were handed out that night and the next day (with the rest mailed directly to folks). Ingathering is scheduled for November 8, followed by an Ingathering brunch after the 1 service at 9:30am. // The Strategic Filter working team continues to meet, doing its work on developing questions connected to Trinity's core values. I'm guesstimating that we'll have

something to present to the Vestry at the early December meeting, to get input/feedback from the larger group.

Miscellany: The Cookie Walk team met to firm up the details for the Cookie Walk kickoff in early October, to recruit bakers and volunteers, as well as people who might be interested in putting together raffle baskets. // I attended a concert at Padaro Lane, put on by Suzanne Duca, who has been a faithful financial supporter of Trinity for many years. // Georgia Noble and Jane Forsyth have been meeting with several people who may be interested in taking over leadership of the Festival Flower process (the planning and execution of the decorating of the church for Christmas and Easter). // I met with Chris Mollkoy and Stephen Singleton about some Buildings and Grounds matters, to clarify some questions about process and timing of upcoming projects. // I've been working with Brian Bargiel about the vestry slate nomination process, as he works with the Vestry Nominating Committee to identify, evaluate, and then talk with possible candidates to become the next Vestry class. // The Banners project kicked off with its first event - a screening of a documentary about artist/activist Sister Corita Kent. The second event will take place on Monday, October 26, with a hands-on exercise to help people see the familiar sites of the sanctuary in a new and fresh way.

Personal: I made a quick trip to Massachusetts to see my daughter, and enjoy some beautiful New England fall weather and leaves. Even though it was only 3 ½ days, we managed to fit in a couple of hikes, enjoyed some tasty food, cooked together, and did heirloom apple tastings.

Respectfully submitted,
October 24, 2026
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, October 2026 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

We celebrated everyone's hard work in making the Annual Giving Kickoff Dinner a success. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and fun! The Parish Council is now working on planning the upcoming Ingathering Brunch on Nov. 8th. This brunch is hosted by both the Vestry and the Parish Council and all the food and hosting is provided by these wonderful groups of leaders. Parish Council also planned a ministry spotlight in which Terre Sanitate made a great announcement to invite more people into the acolytes ministry. Both Terre, Jeff Krutzsch, and David Gartrell welcomed interested folks on the labyrinth, highlighting the need for acolytes and also ushers. They received 4 new names for acolytes.

Justice and Outreach Council

I met with co-chairs Brian and Ralph to plan this month's JOC mtg. JOC is currently working on their discernment for justice grants and the discussion will continue at their next meeting in early November. JOC members are also reaching out to the various justice ministries at Trinity in order to bridge them to the JOC to create more of a network of support and communication.

Supper Club

Supper Club went great with good food and good conversation at Vera Cruz Village. The sign-ups for cooking aren't going as well as they used to, so I'm hoping to highlight this need to the parish.

Compline

Compline was wonderful, even though it took place yet again on a very hot weekend. Madeleine Ignon told a beautiful story about the surprise of motherhood and the tension with her artistic identity. The turnout continues to be great.

Story Circles

Theo Patterson and I are leading 2 story circles each week for Trinity's Youth Group. There are about 17 teenagers who have been gathering on a weekly basis to share deeply about their lives in conversation with Jesus' life. It has been moving, fun, and very meaningful. I am very impressed with our teens in their ability to listen deeply and to share vulnerably. They also have a lot of fun together. This has been a great way for me to deepen my relationship with them.

Pastoral Care

I visited the Samarkand where I presided for their monthly Eucharist. It had been some time since I had done this, since Michael Corrigan does most of these visits. I also did a pet blessing for people who wanted to bring their pets.

I meet with many parishioners to offer pastoral care at home, in my office, in the hospital, and at coffee shops. Bouquet Blessings has recruited more participants thanks to Elizabeth Patterson's ministry spotlight last month.

Centering Prayer

I have been enjoying leading Centering Prayer on Wednesdays 3-4pm in the chapel. Christine Purcell, John Draper and I rotate and it is a good solution to share this leadership. It started out with 12 people, but now we are down to 6 on average. Even with 6 people, it is a sweet time of presence, connection, and silence.

Sacraments

I officiated at a wedding over the weekend for a couple unaffiliated with Trinity.

Continuing Education

As part of my Incarnational Preaching Project, I am meeting with a cohort on Zoom every other month. I am working on little preaching experiments with two Trinity people on my feedback team.

Elizabeth and I just returned from a few days in Danville for the 2nd half of our Austin Story Project. It was wonderful and nourishing, and we have even more tools for leading more story circles at Trinity and during the Lenten Series.

Wider Community Outreach

I attended our deanery gathering where we joined with Deanery 3 parishes for lunch in Malibu at St. Aidan's. It was a great opportunity to meet clergy from a different part of our diocese. I was invited to be part of an interfaith panel at B'nai B'rith during Sukkot, along with Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Imam Wael Hegazy. We spoke about our faiths and personal stories and we answered questions from the audience, made up of the temple's largest donors. It was a great night and I continue to treasure my friendship with these two spiritual leaders in our SB community. I attended the Rescue Mission fundraiser where I was able to sit with a few folks from Trinity (parishioner Patti Hunter is on the board) and hear of the transformational work that is being done by the Rescue Mission

Personal

Mitch and I got to go down to LA to watch our oldest daughter Maddie perform in her drama school's class "showcase" where they presented scenes to agents and industry professionals. She was able to come home for a few days as well, which was wonderful because it happened to be the same weekend as Mitch's Westmont fall production that celebrated the release of the new book of small plays that he edited.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report
October 2026

Our pledging season is well underway. Our kickoff meal was a success, thanks in no small part to the Hospitality Council and its leaders Georg Rice and Isao Sugano. Thank you to all who contributed to the potluck dinner as well. **We are all in this together**, and financial commitments that support our shared life are essential for planning the programs and services that bind us together. Please deeply consider the amount of your family's pledge and bring your pledge cards to our Ingathering Brunch on Sunday, November 8. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks so much to Sarah Thomas and the parishioners who have shared their stories with all of us at the 8:00 and 10:00 services.
Trinity's first Choral Evensong service was a joy to participate in. Thanks so much to Grace Wenzel and Tom Joyce for putting in many hours of envisioning and to the Trinity Chancel Choir for creating a wonderful experience. With Temmo Korisheli in the role of Presider, this was definitely "your grandmother's grandmother's Evensong"! Our next Choral Evensong will take place on November 22 - make plans to attend and have a transcendent experience.

I really enjoyed the kickoff of our Banner Project with the screening of the film *Alleluia*, which documented the ministry, worldview, and art making of Sister Corita Kent. The Banner Project committee has put together a series of meaningful experiences in which we as a congregation can participate. Under the leadership of Lucy Bell we have a great committee and the opportunity to re-envision our sanctuary and the art which represents our faith in new and multi-dimensional ways. I encourage you to attend as many workshops as you are able - let your voice be heard!

The Trinity Men's group was treated to a great breakfast cooked by Isao Sugano and his merry band of helpers, followed by a talk by Relly Nadler on Emotional Intelligence. This is a topic I'm always glad to learn more about, and Relly created an atmosphere that allowed all of us to ask plenty of questions and get more information about emotions. Our Trinity Men are committed to learning and growing.

For those of us who spend a lot of time in the "back of house," this month's cleanout of the Sacristy has been a blessing! So many unused objects were removed, cabinets were cleared, shelves were dusted - the space has been transformed. Thanks so much to Sarah McCarter and her band of volunteers for this long overdue maintenance of the space. Choir members, acolytes, and clergy will reap the benefits of your work for years to come.

Blessings,
Brian Bargiel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN

REPORT TO VESTRY

October, 2026

Finally have some autumn weather. We also had our first significant rain of the season. The first of what is being spoken of as an El Nino year of historic proportions. Among other things, it means the Buildings and Grounds Committee need to keep an eye open for leaks.

The Building and Grounds Committee met twice in the last month. Once kind of a catch up meeting and one with Elizabeth to go over procedures and such. Thebig Buildings and Grounds news is that we have signed a contract with Judson for the work on our stained glass windows in the church building. Work will begin in January and will hopefully bed completed by the end of 2027.

Our small group of our parishioners meeting with Vandersall Consulting has morphed into a Strategic Filter Core Team. We are building on the Vandersall results to create a series of questions to be used in developing leadership and committee skills at decision making. The overriding theme, is making decisions in the context of how they impact the values and goals of Trinity. We are making good progress but have agreed to let it unfold at a natural rate.

On Tuesday, 15 September, we had a meeting of our Executive Committee via Zoom. In attendance were; Sarah McCarter, Clerk; Keith Cobell, Treasurer; Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector, and Elizabeth Molitors, Rector, and me. Sarah and Elizabeth participated from the site of a retreat they were attending in Northern California. We discussed the agenda for the upcoming Vestry meeting. All in all, it was a productive meeting with good discussion. We completed our work in less than an hour. As I reported last month, I like meeting by Zoom. It is easier, quicker, and more efficient.

Respectfully,

Michael Neal Arnold

Junior Warden