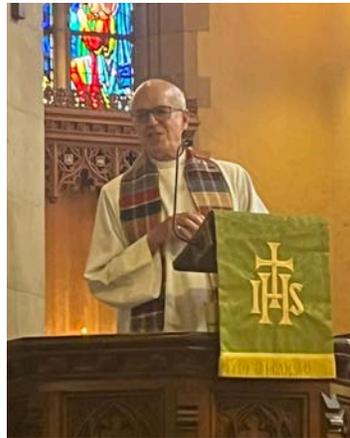


Trinity Episcopal Church 2025 Annual Report



How do you measure a year? . . .



Annual Meeting: February 8, 2026

1500 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 trinitysb.org

About Us



Our Mission

Trinity is a progressive Christian church in the Episcopal tradition, where we believe that every person has a share in God's love: a love that is inclusive, unconditional, abundant, and meant to be expressed through action in the world.

Staff and Clergy

The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors, Rector
The Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector
The Rev. John Draper, Deacon
Dr. Thomas Joyce, Director of Music
Jan Fadden, Parish Nurse
Theo Patterson, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults
Mary Ann Paxton, Office Manager
Carlos Ruano, Sexton
Cami Segna, Business Manager
Betty Wenzel, Director of Communications

Our Lay Leadership

Vestry

Class of 2023-2026

Susan Krutzsch
Georgia Noble, Senior Warden
Ellen O'Connell Whittet
Susan Zink, Junior Warden

Class of 2024-2027

Jean Davis
Sarah McCarter, Clerk
Fred Williams

Class of 2025-2028

Michael Neal Arnold
Jay Casbon
Michelle Petty
Alexander Thomas

Parish Council

Worship

Jeannie Christensen

Justice and Outreach

Jeffrey Krutzsch and Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

Children and Youth

Mary Gibson and Christen Foell

Hospitality

Georg Rice and Isao Sugano

Welcome

John Spence

Contact the Trinity Front Office at
office@trinitysb.org or 805-965-7419.



TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



15,330

NUMBER OF TIMES
COMMUNION WAS SHARED



9

WEDDINGS



3

BAPTISMS



5

FUNERALS

5



CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED IN EUCHARIST RETREAT



600

CARE KITS ASSEMBLED
FOR THE NEEDY



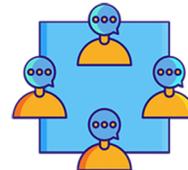
32

FIRST TIME PLEDGERS



75

NEWCOMERS



32

OUTSIDE GROUPS HELD
MEETINGS, EVENTS
AND CONCERTS



\$47,000

OUTREACH FUNDS
GIVEN TO **26**
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH — 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2025 | Parish Hall

The 2024 Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:07am. Elizabeth Molitors introduced the meeting agenda, and Sarah Thomas led us in prayer. Outgoing vestry clerk David Gartrell was appointed clerk of the meeting. Bill Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2023 annual meeting, which Claude Garciacelay seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Elizabeth recognized the vestry members whose three-year terms are coming to an end—Nollie Lei Dawson, David Gartrell, Max Rorty, and Stephen Singleton—as well as Paul Delaney, who will be moving out of state after serving for two years. She gave them each a parting gift bag, noting that the January vestry meeting also involves a much more extensive celebration of retiring vestry members.

The printed meeting packet included the bios of the new vestry nominees: Michael Neal Arnold, Jay Casbon, Michelle Petty-Grue, Alexander Thomas, and Ellen O’Connell Whittet. (Ellen being nominated to serve for one year to finish Paul Delaney’s term.) In a vote by acclamation, Bill Ferguson moved to accept the slate of vestry nominees presented. Art Fisher seconded the motion, and with all in favor, the motion carried and the nominees were appointed. Elizabeth then spoke about the nomination process and praised the work of the Vestry Nominating Committee.

Introducing the next round of voting by acclamation, Elizabeth spoke a bit about the annual Diocesan Convention, explaining its purpose within the life of the diocese and noting that due to the size of our congregation, we send five lay delegates each year. The nominating committee presented Barb Howell, Sarah McCarter, Georgia Noble, Aaron Panchal, and Susannah Rake as delegates to the 2025 Diocesan Convention, with Carol Carpenter, Anne Roediger, and Phylene Wiggins as alternates. Dodie Little moved to accept this slate of nominees, with Bill Ferguson seconding the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

Elizabeth then spoke in recognition of changes within Parish Council leadership. Alex Thomas is leaving the Parish Council to join the vestry, and Elizabeth spoke for all of us in gratitude for Alex’s embodiment of hospitality at Trinity. As co-chairs of the Hospitality Council, Georg Rice is staying on, and Isao Sugano is coming on board in Alex’s former role. Elizabeth Patterson, not present to receive the thanks of the parish, is stepping down as chair of the Welcoming Council, and Elizabeth Molitors is still working on approaching parishioners to replace her in that role.

Elizabeth then introduced Trinity’s treasurer Keith Cobell, who noted with gratitude our good financial position. Keith thanked Cami Segna, our business manager, for doing the “heavy lifting” with budget numbers and narrative, as well as members of the Finance Committee who provide oversight and advice on financial matters.

Turning his attention to the 2024 budget, Keith made three points: first, that in December 2024 we took in more income than needed to end the year in the black; second, that year-end loose plate was far above the amount budgeted for 2024, indicating that new people have been feeling a connection to Trinity; and third, that given our net income bottom line was a positive number there was no need to use the surplus net profit from 2023 to make up a budgeted deficit in 2024, as had been approved in the 2024 budget.

Shifting to the budget narrative for 2025, Keith pointed out that we are increasing the budget by about 6.5%. He mentioned four things of note. First, the budget is balanced. Second, due to the highest number of pledges in the history of the parish for 2025, we are lowering expectations for loose plate income. Third, for the coming year we are giving staff a cost-of-living adjustment and, for the first time, an additional 1% merit increase. Finally, Keith explained that Buildings & Grounds will have funding for capital projects after the vestry approved drawing a small portion from investment accounts each year, allowing us to avoid deferred maintenance, and providing

stewardship of our physical assets to pass along to the next generation. Keith ended his comments with thanks to the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Hearing no questions or comments after Elizabeth invited them, Doug Clegg made a motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented, with Andrea Bargiel seconding. All in favor, the motion passed.

After the screening of the video slideshow looking back at parish life in 2024, Elizabeth asked Senior Warden Georgia Noble and incoming vestry members to come forward for commissioning. She invited new members to prayerfully commit to their new responsibilities, and the congregation to support them in their work. Elizabeth then appointed Sarah McCarter as clerk of the vestry, and Georgia Noble and Mark Ismond to continue as senior warden and junior warden, respectively, for the coming year.

Following the rector's address, Elizabeth gave a closing blessing authored by William Sloane Coffin. Brian Bargiel made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting, which Dane Goodman seconded. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by: David Gartrell, Clerk



Reports from Clergy and Vestry Wardens

Rector: The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

One Sunday last January, as I greeted people at the door after the ten o'clock service, I met a man named Thomas, a first-time visitor to Trinity. As I often do, I asked him what had brought him to our church that day. He had been forced to evacuate from his home near Brentwood because of the devastating fires happening in Los Angeles. He had been planning a weekend getaway to Santa Barbara anyway, so he decided to make Santa Barbara the place where he hunkered down for the duration of the evacuation.

"Are you part of a church in Brentwood?" I asked. He was, but it was not an Episcopal church. "So how did you find your way to Trinity?" His answer was unexpected. He had gone to REI to buy some additional clothes, as he had packed in a hurry. He asked the clerk who helped him if they could recommend a local church, and the person directed him here.

What was to have been a brief stay turned into two or three weeks, and so I saw Thomas a couple more times. After he returned to Brentwood, he sent me a handwritten note expressing how much those few Sundays had meant to him. There were people who recognized him from week to week, and others who greeted him by name. The prayers of the people those weeks included prayers for all impacted by the LA fires. He was a stranger, in an unfamiliar church and faith tradition, but felt like he had been welcomed home.

Recognition. A remembered name. His neighborhood and neighbors called out in prayer. Each of these things takes just a moment, and they are things which are such a part of Trinity that maybe we do not appreciate their specialness, yet they meant the world to this man.

For our Annual Report theme this year, we borrowed from the lyrics of a song from a famous musical, lyrics which say, in part, "525,600 minutes - how do you measure, measure a year? In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee. In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. 525,600 minutes - how do you measure a year in the life? How about love? How about love? How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love."

Now, I know that the musical from which this song comes—*Rent*—is not about what happens in the life of a church. Regardless, I resonate with the sentiment it expresses—that life is made up of all these little bits of time, every minute a choice. Because we are human, we do not always make the kind or brave or generous choice each minute but think of all the opportunities we have to make the right choice! Think of all the ways we have to make a difference. In the language of Jesus, these moments are a series of chances to bring about the kingdom of God in our world, here and now.

When I look at every part of our worship, every event we host, every ministry, every part of our building, every coffee hour, every line item in our budget, I can see the many minutes and hours that brought it all about. Generous, unstinting, abundant expressions of love. 525,600 minutes multiplied by each one of you. That is a lot of love.

With gratitude for all you share.

Elizabeth+

Associate Rector: The Rev. Sarah Thomas

In February, I planned a retreat for our lay leaders, those who serve on the Vestry and Parish Council. Leadership retreats can sometimes feel more like work than rest, and this time we wanted to give our lay leaders some real spiritual renewal. I chose the theme “The glory of God is a human being fully alive,” a quotation borrowed from early church leader Bishop Irenaeus of Lyon. We each brought sacred objects to share a story about our lives, we sang songs together, and we reflected on how our ministries make us feel more alive and how they invite others into more life. As I listened to people engage in these reflections, it occurred to me how much life and vitality pulses through Trinity: From the way we wholeheartedly sing and pass The Peace on Sunday mornings; to the way Supper Club volunteers jump into action to set up the room to make it as hospitable as possible; to the way the Compline volunteers, whom we call “sacristans,” have formed a real community of friendship.

I recall the recent January night when parishioners Aaron and Jen Panchal began labor with their first child, the sacristans paused their Compline preparations to gather around the prayer candelabra and pray for this little family as they ushered a new life into the world. And, during Dave Wyman’s memorial service, I heard his wife Diane’s clear soprano voice singing “Amazing Grace” from the front pew as her beloved choir (of which she is an alum) sent loving glances her way. There is so much life even amidst grief. What a beautiful community we have! A community in which we all can follow the Spirit’s call into more and more life.



Deacon: The Rev. John Draper

Serving the men at Lompoc prison continues to be a joy that words are insufficient to describe. In a place where no one can be trusted, these men continue to open up to each other and to me about their hopes and regrets. At a recent class graduation for a six-month program intended to reduce recidivism, here were some comments made by the graduates:

“Every time we meet, the hummingbirds are always outside our door welcoming us back.”

“I’m starting to open up about me and share my feelings.”

“Lying was the only way I knew how to survive. Now I’m practicing honesty and transparency.”

“I’m doing what is best for my family. That will probably mean being deported when I’m released so they can stay in this country.”

I continue to hope that the Episcopal Church will find a way to become a safe harbor for incarcerated men and women who never want to go back to prison. The recidivism rate is over 50% in the first year simply because a newly released prisoner often has no one willing to walk alongside them as they try to find a new season of love.

Deacon Postulant: Phylene Wiggins



This was a transitional year in my process toward becoming a deacon. I received my formation plan from the diocese which took me to the next phase of the ordination process. One of the key parts of the formation plan is my seminary education. I am now actively enrolled in the Diaconal Formation Collaborative—an online learning program administered by Bexley Seabury Seminary. Because I am employed full time, this program works well for my schedule, and the coursework can be completed in my own timeframe. I have finished the Engaging Holy Scriptures program unit with the help of three wonderful mentors who are ordained clergy. Through the seminary program, I am connecting with other postulants from around the country. The coursework has helped me strengthen my diaconal ministry lens. My related 2025 activities include preaching and leading an adult formation course on creating a dementia friendly church. I am very appreciative of your support.

Vestry Senior Warden: Georgia Noble

Reflecting on the projects of my final year as Senior Warden, a clear goal appeared: To strengthen Trinity's role as a sanctuary of sanity and light within the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. This goal feels especially important during these challenging times. Both longtime Trinity members and newcomers seek the spiritual nourishment and community that this church is called to provide. I am committed to this calling, and eager to use my gifts to foster genuine connections and a sense of belonging. Contributing to this mission has brought me great fulfillment.

One major project I helped lead was our investment in the Invite Welcome Connect program. Over the past 18 months, we adopted many effective practices that have yielded positive results. Recently, I enjoyed a potluck with some new parishioners, where we discussed how they found their way to Trinity. Throughout the evening, I heard multiple mentions of how these newcomers found a spiritual home at Trinity and how the people of Trinity are welcoming and friendly. It was deeply satisfying to see the payoff of all the effort invested in fostering our warm hospitality.

This year, I embraced the idea that genuine hospitality depends on authentic connections, and these require vulnerability and openness to others. We invite people not only to be like us, but also to challenge and transform us. My heart has grown as I have worked with fellow Trinitarians through shared ministry, shepherding committees, cooking, washing dishes, and engaging in meaningful conversations around the table. These experiences have deepened my sense of love and connection. It has been a rewarding year, marked by new friendships and the joy of meaningful work. I look forward to what the future holds.

Vestry Junior Warden: Susan Zink

What are the duties of the People's (Junior) Warden? How did we welcome all people this year? Exactly 525,600 minutes. . . how do we measure a year's progress? The People's Warden position is described as a person with a consistently positive attitude who makes meaningful connections with the people of Trinity and who has familiarity and experience with the congregation. My work as People's Warden this year offered me a very visible and varied role in the parish. I served as a Sunday morning greeter before church and at the Welcome Table at Coffee Hour. My husband Paul and I coordinated the quarterly packing of healthy lunches for our unhoused neighbors through our Care Kit program. As an extension of my vestry role, I participated in the Invite Welcome Connect



program, helping to make our parish more welcoming. And I attended and participated in parish gatherings and fundraising events, helping to raise money for the church.

I am committed to extending hospitality to those in our parish who need special attention by delivering a meal, offering rides to church, or hosting a lunch or dinner.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Ismond and The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

During 2025, capital projects at Trinity included replacing/installing an ironwork railing at the Micheltorena side red door, as well as projects at the rectory including a non-functioning oven and reconfiguring some cabinetry to allow for a standard size oven replacement. We used some funds from the 2025 investment accounts to cover negative balances for work done in 2024 that exceeded the 2024 capital projects funds allotted for elevator repairs and iron work around the staircase that leads to the mechanical rooms under the chapel. Mark Ismond, who had been serving as Junior Warden and chair of the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) committee, stepped down from those leadership roles because of work and family commitments. The clergy and vestry leadership spent time reimagining what has been, in the past, a combined role of Junior Warden and B&G chair and decided to separate those responsibilities. A search was conducted to find a new B&G chair, and we are delighted that Chris Mollkoy will be taking on that role. At the close of the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2026, the vestry will vote on a new Junior Warden, and that person will act as liaison between the vestry and B&G committee.

Reports from Staff Members

Director of Music: Dr. Thomas Joyce

"Qui cantat, bis orat - One who sings prays twice" - St. Augustine

Every Sunday at Trinity, we come together and sing to the glory of God. The choir and congregation sing sacred texts set to melodies composed in both ancient and modern times. Music at Trinity is chosen to enhance our experience of each liturgical season and the understanding of the lessons and sermons that we are so fortunate to hear and learn from. The synergy of sacred music with the sacred Word is the nourishment of our worship.

This past year was a year of evolution for the Trinity Choir. With the retirements of Diane Wyman, Art and Louise Fisher, Marianne and Larry Kugler, and Greg Hawkins, came the arrival of new singers to fill vacancies in each section (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). If there is such a thing as divine intervention, this was it! In addition, through the generosity of the congregation, we created five paid section leader positions to support the ongoing growth of the choir. In 2026, may we continue to evolve and be shaped together divinely through the singing of our prayers.



"Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our redeemer." - Psalm 19:14.

Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults: Theo Patterson

In the first hour of Sunday morning before the hustle and bustle of the “stampede,” as a Level III student calls the rush just before the ten o'clock service begins, the Children and Youth Building is quiet, but not completely silent. Volunteers and Catechists begin to arrive and prepare the spaces that have for years, week after week, been sacred places of worship and spiritual formation for our youngest parishioners. It is in this time of sweeping floors, prepping prayer tables, and finding flowers that some of the most tender moments of community are built. Parent volunteers form new personal bonds with the Catechists who teach the children each week and friendships develop between adults of different generations who are brought together by their shared love and commitment to our youngsters. These quiet moments of stillness are also fertile ground for the earliest arriving children to encounter God in a contemplative way. Emmie H., age 5, silently colored a block-letter message she wrote that said “I LOVE God” on one of these mornings. Carina L., age 11, told me how much she enjoys the peaceful calm to work on embroidery or make rosaries before her friends arrive. There is beautiful life that grows from ordinary, early moments with God and each other in service and reflection. This was a year of cherishing that gift of extraordinary joy that blossoms from continued ordinary moments of ministry with Children, Youth, and Young Adults.

Director Of Communications: Betty Wenzel

How do you measure a year in parish life?

The emails, the spreadsheets, the database updates...

The nametags, the pledge packets, the letters addressed...

The handshakes, the welcomes, the smiles exchanged...

I love the work that goes on behind the scenes from Monday to Friday. So much thought goes into preparing our spaces for the Trinity community, both in person and online. When a new person joins the worship team, their name gets added to the schedule of readers, greeters, ushers, and other helpers. Then, when Sunday comes, it gives me so much joy to see the faces that belong to those email addresses, now serving in ministries and worshipping. We are so much the better for having new congregants among us!

I remember meeting a visitor during the week who then came to a Sunday service. They requested a nametag, and it was ready for them the following Sunday. I recognized them, said their name, and they were so surprised. It was a reminder that the simple act of recognition, of remembering a name, of a friendly personal greeting, can have a powerful impact.



Front Office Administrator: Mary Ann Paxton

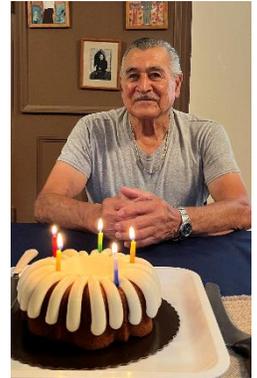
When most congregants think of Trinity, they think of attending Sunday service, hearing beautiful music, being surrounded by their church family, and contemplating the message of the sermon.

As a member of the Trinity staff, my Trinity experience takes place when the church is quiet and preparations for the next Sunday service are underway. During the work week, I have many opportunities to carry out the mission of Trinity by warmly welcoming guests, inviting all who visit to attend Sunday service and other events, listening to how we might be of service, and sharing how we might be able to help.

Each time the front doorbell rings, it is an opportunity to be kind, welcoming, and present for the individual who has come to Trinity for a reason. It may be a parishioner bearing a donation of food for the Warming Center meal or an unhoused member of the community who will benefit from receiving a nutritious Care Kit. It may be a parishioner in search of a blessed prayer shawl for an ailing neighbor or someone looking to spend time in the sanctuary to pray or admire the beauty of the stained glass and architecture. During the week, the front office staff continues to carry out the mission of Trinity one visitor at a time. I am honored to have these beautiful opportunities of connection and service.

About Our Sexton, Carlos Ruano: The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

Carlos Ruano, Trinity’s sexton, embodies the notion of 525,600 minutes of love and care for the spaces and people of Trinity. The kind of work Carlos does—keeping the building clean, ensuring that sump pumps are working well when the rains come, setting up tables and chairs for funeral receptions, meetings, dinners, and concerts, walking the property to notice if anything is amiss—is so often invisible, only becoming apparent when it is not done well. On behalf of the people of Trinity, and all the groups that regularly use our spaces, I offer thanks to Carlos for the way he shows up for his job every day—with skill and faithfulness, and with care and integrity. And with love. *Gracias*, Carlos.



Parish Nurse: Jan Fadden, R.N.

In my 23rd year at Trinity, I was privileged to watch the congregation grow with vitality and positive ideas. The parishioners I spent time with were grateful for any support in navigating our complex medical system. I answered basic medical inquiries and took blood pressure. Our annual flu shot event also had a large turnout. I hope that 2026 brings our parishioners continued good health and wellness in body, mind, and spirit, and that our parishioners continue to foster a strong sense of community within the church and beyond.

Reports from Ministry Leaders

Worship Ministries: Jeannie Christensen

We measure a church year in Sundays and special services. Small groups prepare long before we gather for worship each week. One group gathers to make bread for communion, the choir gathers to learn music, the priests prepare sermons, and ushers, acolytes, readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers are trained. Our worship begins with warm feelings of welcome and belonging created by the ushers welcoming visitors, the acolytes lighting candles, and the musical prelude. We know it is God who welcomes us. This welcome continues throughout the service.

For me, the highlights of worship this year were the welcoming of our newest tiny member, reminding us of the birth of Jesus, and hearing the choir sing the choral liturgy at the Celebration of Life of one of our dear ones. These services wove members and strangers into a community of LOVE.

Children and Youth Ministries: Mary Gibson and Christen Foell

The Children and Youth Ministries' focus statement states that we serve to empower our children and youth to claim their place right now as full members of our church community. Each Sunday we see many of our youth sharing their gifts by taking part in the service as acolytes, readers, Lay Eucharist Ministers, stream team members, and ushers. The younger children enter the church to join the community for Eucharist after hearing the Word of God in the atriums. Our children also share their love with the community by presenting the Christmas story at the Christmas Eve service. To prepare for that service, the children listen to presentations and meditate on the infancy narratives, learn music, and practice their presentation. This year, what a blessing it was to have one of the youngest members of Trinity, newborn baby Riley, join with the Trinity community as he lay in the manger (car seat) surrounded by the children of Trinity.



Hospitality Ministry: Georgi Rice and Isao Sugano

This past year was a truly successful year for our hospitality ministry family. The year was marked by growth, teamwork, and a renewed sense of connection within our church community. By working together, we strengthened our ability to host meaningful gatherings. Further, the dedication of our many helpers was essential to bringing each event to life.

Coffee Hour ran smoothly each week, offering a warm and welcoming space for fellowship. Our Trinity Brew Crew deserves special recognition for their consistency, enthusiasm, and care. We are grateful that every call for helpers was met with abundant and willing responses, especially during our summer recruitment, when many new faces joined the team. The team's commitment ensures that each Sunday all who attend service are greeted with the well-known hospitality of Coffee Hour. Together, we have created an environment that reflects the spirit of Trinity and supports our mission of community and connection.

Welcome Ministry: John Spence

Throughout the year, an enthusiastic team of greeters extends Christ's embrace to all who gather for the Sunday ten o'clock service. The team recognizes the sacred privilege of serving as the church's welcoming presence for both visitors and longtime congregants. During The Peace greeters have heard visitors share how the genuine, heartfelt reception they experienced on the church steps inspired them to return. Seasoned members have remarked on the warmth and acceptance they have encountered from greeters they knew only by name tag—a simple introduction that has blossomed into meaningful connection. Our greeters have expressed delight in recognizing faces from church events and deepening the bonds within the Trinity family. They also treasure conversations with longtime members whose stories are woven into the fabric of our congregation.

Greeters who serve at the welcome table often engage in substantive conversations with visitors and newcomers that increase participation in church life. These interactions have led to one newcomer now singing in the choir, another supporting the children's ministry, another joining the men's ministry, and still another serving as an usher. The ripple effect of this ministry constantly expands. The seemingly small gestures of a firm handshake, a radiant smile, or assistance finding a name tag frequently cultivate genuine friendships.



A spirit of fellowship flourishes among the greeting teams when they gather at 9:30 a.m. to seek God's blessing, courage, and wisdom in ensuring that every person, regardless of who they are or what brings them through our doors, experiences the welcoming love of Jesus.

Justice and Outreach Ministries: Jeffrey Krutzsch and Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

How did the Justice and Outreach Council (JOC) engage to make Trinity a place that reflects God's Seasons of Love this year?

JOC provided 525,600 moments of God's Love through its five Action Circles:

- Immigration: Current Immigration Issues, Reforms, and Economic Justice
- Basic Needs: Housing, Food Insecurity, Mental Health, and Homelessness
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Early Care and Education of Children and Harding School

Through the Action Circles, we participated in and funded the monthly Supper Club Dinners at Veracruz Village and meals at Transition House. In April, the JOC hosted a Gun Violence Prevention Forum and in May, it hosted the Climate Connections Weekend Guest Preacher/Forum series with Kate Varley and Rev. Patricia Wilcox from the Los Angeles Diocese. In October, the JOC hosted the Immigration Weekend Guest Preacher/Forum series with Rev. Francisco Garcia from the Los Angeles Diocese Sacred Resistance group. The JOC continued its work with the Diocese on the development of Trinity's Disaster Resilience Plan and supported Doctors without Walls. The JOC coordinated Santa Barbara Street Medicine winter and summer campaigns to provide Santa Barbara's homeless women with appropriate seasonal clothing. In September, parishioners Eileen and Charles Read hosted Trinity's Interfaith Outreach Dinner with our Muslim friends in the community and in October, Kate Wallace and Doug Clegg entertained the Parish with a Trinity Backstage musical fundraiser to benefit 805 Undocufund.

See page for __ for Justice and Outreach financial giving this year.

Adult Spiritual Formation: The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

In addition to the regular and ongoing Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities (Base Community Bible Study, Caregiver Support Group, Men's Group, Sign Language class, Women at the Well Women's Group, You Only Live Once (YOLO) Group, in 2025 we had a number of other offerings including:

- Dignity Index Forum Series, led by Rev. Mark Asman
- Alzheimer's Forum Series, organized by Phylene Wiggins
- Climate Connections Workshop, hosted by the Climate Action Circle
- World Labyrinth Day Walk
- Introduction to Centering Prayer Forum with Rev. Christine Purcell
- Alternatives to Retaliation Workshop with David Richo
- *Traces of the Trade* movie screening
- Episcopal 101 Class
- Scripture Fest Lenten Series with Rev. Gary Hall
- Immigration Forum with Rev. Francisco Garcia

Stewardship and Giving: The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors



Although Trinity has a “season” of annual giving—the time in fall when we present a tentative budget for the coming year and ask people to make financial pledges to meet our operational expenses, stewardship is something that’s a 525,600 minutes a year kind of thing. In the larger sense, stewardship means caring for the Trinity community (people, ministries, and properties) during the time these things are entrusted to our care, to ensure their health and vibrancy so we can continue to carry forth the good news of God for future generations.

In my annual giving letter this past fall, I spoke of Robin Wall Kimmerer and her book *The Serviceberry*, which draws on lessons of interdependence in nature as a model for how humanity cannot only survive, but thrive. I concluded that letter by saying:

That same kind of abundance, sharing, connection, and reciprocity is on vivid display at Trinity. I’m delighted and grateful to witness so many seeds of relationship, service and generosity being sown within and outside of our church walls. We flourish as a faith community when we work together to make Trinity a place of safety and belonging, where all people can come to know they are beloved of God, and then are invited to share that message of expansive, inclusive love and hope to a fractured and hurting world.

Lay Pastoral Care Ministries

Bouquet Blessings: Elizabeth Patterson

Our third year delivering bouquets created from our weekly altar flowers continued to be a welcome part of our pastoral care ministry. Thirteen volunteer members of the flower guild carefully disassemble the altar flower arrangements and create new bouquets. Last year, 195 bouquets were hand delivered to recipients selected each week by the clergy. Some of the dozens of expressions of gratitude offered by the recipients include:

“They made my day and couldn’t have arrived at a better time!”

“Receiving these lovely flowers filled me with joy and gratitude for the Trinity family.”

“The flowers are so beautiful and truly brightened my day.”

Thanks to the efforts of the flower guild volunteers, altar flowers can be enjoyed for an extended period. Volunteer arrangers and deliverers have expressed that their work in the guild is as rewarding to them as it is to those who receive the bouquets.

Helping Hands: Mac McNeel

Helping Hands spreads love and connects parishioners. Helping Hands is a collaborative group of Trinity members, willing to occasionally make a meal for a parishioner in need or drive them to medical appointments. This year we ran nine Meal Trains, a wonderful way to welcome new babies and support members through cancer treatments and surgeries. My favorite adventure this year was driving Cheri Young to her physical therapy appointments after her knee replacement. I had never been to Rancho Santa Barbara, where she and several other Trinity members live. What a surprise! With over 330 homes, and accessed from either Calle Real or Cathedral Oaks Road, I was totally lost on my first visit. But with Cheri’s help, I now know how to navigate her lovely community. Maybe she will even invite me over to enjoy the pool or the golf course! Ah, the places you go and the lovely people you meet by being part of Helping Hands Ministry!

Lay Eucharistic Visitation: Michael Neal Arnold

As members of Trinity’s pastoral care team, Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring communion and companionship to homebound parishioners. Currently, the ministry has six trained ministers ready to bring home communion as needed into the community.

As I enter the dining room, the attendant turns off the Roman Catholic Mass that is on the television. After a Gospel reading, the Collect, the Confession, and the Lord’s Prayer, I move around the room approaching each of the dozen or so people in attendance. I take a communion wafer in my hand, dip it in the wine, and hold it up to the communicant. “This is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ”, I say. I place the sacrament on their tongue, rest my hand on their shoulder, and continue, “keep you in everlasting life.”

Some smile, some cry, some stare into the distance. The practiced say, “Amen.” Others say, “Thank you.” And a few say nothing at all. It is a solemn and holy moment. It is mystery infused. We are touched by the divine.

Prayer Ministry: Phylene Wiggins

By offering personal prayer and anointing with consecrated oil during the Eucharist, the prayer ministry provides a place for those who desire to feel God’s presence in their lives and to share their burdens, joys, and sorrows. Whatever the request, God’s loving presence is invoked as we pray with a person and anoint them with oil. Individual circumstances are wide-ranging, and our prayer is that those who come leave with a renewed awareness of God’s love and care for them. Those who served in this caring ministry in 2025 include Chris Boesch, Caryl Casbon, Jay Casbon, Jeannie Christensen, Helene Gardner, Nels Henderson, Anna Kokotovic, Dodie Little, Georgia Noble, Susannah Rake, and Nina Zimmer.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Norma Stuck



“Dear Knitters, your prayer shawl delivered by my son, Matthew was a lovely surprise! I love the colors and the soft texture of the yarn. God bless you for caring.” This thank you from a recipient displays a sense of hope and gratefulness that reaches each person who receives a hand knitted shawl. Trinity knitters and crocheters create shawls that are blessed by the clergy and given to people in times of physical or emotional need. Each stitch knitted creates a sense of warmth, comfort, and strength-of being wrapped in loving arms when life changes. If you cannot sleep at night, a shawl can provide warmth and calm for those difficult hours. This year, the clergy blessed eighteen shawls that took knitters and crocheters many devoted hours to produce. A dozen shawls were given away with prayers and hope for each recipient.

The prayer shawl ministry collects donations for yarn purchases with much of the funding provided by knitters and grateful recipients.

Outreach Ministries

Care Kits: Susan Zink and Trinity Youth

Care Kits is a ministry which began in 2023 to serve our unhoused neighbors. About four times a year, shelf-stable items are donated and then a team of parishioners and Trinity youth members assemble lunch bags that are stored at Trinity and then taken by parishioners to give out to people in need. In October of 2025, with consultation from Doctors without Walls, parishioner and nutrition specialist Julie Hayes Nadler created [a list of nutrient-rich snacks](#) that are low sodium, low sugar, and high protein. These items are purchased by the parish and reimbursed with financial donations.

*600 bags of food for our unhoused neighbors,
600 love notes from kids to spread cheer,
100 helpers that volunteered their time...
What a blessing to share food this year!
With smiles, with glad hands, in mornings with cups of coffee,
With bags full of protein to help those in strife.
With 600 food bags – how do you measure the gifts that give life?
How about Love? How about Grace? How about Joy?
Strife eased with Love... Trinity Love!*

Faro Center / Vera Cruz Village: The Rev. Sarah Thomas

Over the years, Trinity has partnered with local organizations to serve food to our neighbors most in need. What began during the pandemic of giving out grocery gift cards to people living in Alameda Park, turned into a meal ministry, serving the unhoused once a month. In 2024, our friends at SBACT opened the FARO Center. FARO, which stands for Fostering Access, Resiliency, and Opportunity, is a downtown center on Chapala Street where many services for the unhoused are combined. In 2025, a wonderful group of Trinity parishioners participated in a once-a-month meal ministry at FARO. The "meal ministers" had various roles including shopping, cooking, cleaning and serving the meal. We always gathered at the end of the cooking to bless the meal for those about to receive it. After some trouble between FARO and the city of Santa Barbara, the Center had to discontinue its hot meals. So, Trinity transitioned our meal ministry to Vera Cruz Village, one of the Housing Authority's permanent supportive housing communities. This once-a-month ministry is called "Supper Club" and joins a local movement initiated by Daniel "DJ" Johnson, Catalytic Neighborhood Impact Coordinator for Kingdom Causes. The Supper Club model is different from our old meal ministry in that all sit down and eat the meal together, to develop relationships and offer company to people who often live quite isolated lives. It is a mutual blessing! Supper Club takes place on the third Thursday of each month.



Freedom Warming Centers: Mary Ann Paxton

Freedom Warming Centers, operated by Good Samaritan, gives the unhoused in our community a safe, dry, and warm place to sleep when the weather meets certain criteria (50% chance of rain and/or temperatures below 35 degrees). Trinity is one of only 3 churches currently that offer space for the warming center to take place in Santa Barbara. Thanks to the 120+ Trinity volunteers who have signed up to prepare and serve meals, along with the many congregants who make and

donate delicious casseroles, we are able to provide meals to nourish and warm the hearts of those in need. In 2025, Trinity was activated for 5 nights and served a total of 150 guests.

Also, with this many volunteers involved, we can be very responsive. For our last activation, we received very short notice, less than 24 hours, but thanks to the responsiveness of our strong team of volunteers, we had a full team signed up within 3 ½ hours of posting the opportunity, and groceries were beginning to be dropped off within 4 hours of the posting. What an amazing group of volunteers we have! Thank you for your service!

Holiday Gift Drive with Doctors Without Walls: Betty Wenzel

Doctors Without Walls (DWW)-Santa Barbara Street Medicine provides free, volunteer medical care to underserved populations. DWW teams of medical professionals, students, and community members operate several weekly clinics around town and provide medical assistance and essential medical items to the unsheltered community. In 2025, DWW and Trinity partnered several times for a “Clothing Compassion” donation drive. Trinity parishioners responded resoundingly, filling collection bins with items most needed by DWW patients, including socks, bras, shirts, pants, jackets, sweaters, and blankets. Trinity is grateful to DWW for helping to improve lives in Santa Barbara.

Transition House Meals and Fellowship: Teresa Pietsch

What’s for dinner? Grilled fresh chicken, pork street tacos, chicken salad sandwiches, and three-berry crisp are just some of the items prepared when Trinity volunteers cook and serve a freshly prepared, tasty meal on the fourth Saturday of the month at Transition House. Team leader Ralph Lowi led Trinity volunteers in preparing 700 meals in 2025. Volunteers say that Ralph makes it easy and fun to be in the kitchen. At least 30 people, some new to working in a kitchen, volunteered to be on a cooking and serving team and most have returned to repeat the experience.

Community Engagement: The Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

Throughout 2025, Trinity hosted several events and activities that focused on inviting and welcoming the broader Santa Barbara community into Trinity’s indoor spaces, or onto our grounds, to enjoy fellowship, hospitality, wonderful music, space for contemplation and quiet and prayer, and a sense of both groundedness and transcendence.

- Bill Wood’s **Noon Concert Series** brings together Trinity members, along with many neighborhood friends and visitors, to enjoy 30-40 minutes of delightful music for a midday respite. Guests enjoyed six Noon Concert events in 2025.
- On Inauguration Day 2025, Trinity hosted an **Inauguration of Love** event, welcoming those who wanted to spend time in prayer for our community, our country, and the world to come walk the Labyrinth. Volunteers were on hand to lend support and answer questions for those unfamiliar with the spiritual practice of walking prayer.
- The monthly **Compline with Story & Sound** service welcomes a broad cross-section of community members and longtime Trinity parishioners, to revel in restful candlelight, electronic music, heartfelt and deep stories, delicious tea, and prayer. Attendance at these first Sunday of the month offerings continues to grow.

- In September, Trinity hosted a silent art auction, **The Work of our Hands**, featuring works of art created by Trinity parishioners. It was not only a successful fundraising event (\$7,000+), but an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors into Trinity to see and experience our hospitality and creativity.
- Later that month, Trinity hosted an **interfaith dinner** with the Islamic Society, to have conversation around a shared meal, make connections with people from a different faith tradition, and notice and highlight our common ground. This was the first of what we hope to be an ongoing series of interfaith events.
- To celebrate the feast of St. Francis, Trinity offers a **Blessing of the Animals** event in early October. Parishioners, nearby residents, and anyone walking by with their pet are invited to participate in a brief service of prayer and scripture honoring all creation, while clergy offer blessings to each pet and their owner/caretaker. In 2025, Trinity was pleased to partner with representatives from Santa Barbara Humane, who were on hand to share information about their services, and offer treats to pets and owners alike.
- In mid-December, Trinity hosted its 5th Annual **Cookie Walk and Holiday Basket Raffle**. While the Cookie Walk is a parish fundraiser (more than \$12,000 raised in 2025), we've continued in our efforts to spread the word about this event to all of Santa Barbara (through the *Independent*, social media, word of mouth, event postcards, and signage), so that over time this event becomes a whole community event—a fun, delicious, and low-threshold way for folks to get to know a little bit about Trinity.
- The **Trinity Backstage Holiday Show** on the labyrinth is an annual highlight of the Christmas season, led by parishioner-musicians Kate Wallace and Doug Clegg, along with various guest musicians and singers. Since the pandemic shutdown, this annual event has been held outdoors on the labyrinth, a change in location that draws in not only those long-time fans and followers of Kate and Doug, but others from the church and neighborhood who happen by. The concert is also an important fundraiser, contributing more than \$2000 to Trinity's annual operating budget.



Justice and Outreach Council (JOC) Financial Gifts and Grants in 2025

The following donations put our financial assistance into action:

- \$1,714 to AFDOJ (American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem), in support of humanitarian ministries in the Middle East
- \$100 to Planned Parenthood, supporting their Annual Book Sale
- \$225 to Pacific Pride Foundation, hosting a booth at their Pride Festival
- \$300 to EDC (Environmental Defense Center), sponsoring their annual Blue and Green celebration
- \$300 to CEC (Community Environmental Council), sponsoring the Earth Day event
- \$100 to PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for a year's membership
- \$1,000 to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to support their restoration of the church's mosaic damaged by vandalism
- \$1,000 to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to support their Fiesta Weekend fundraising efforts due to the decline in attendance caused by ICE's presence in Santa Barbara
- \$1,000 to 805 Undocufund to support their efforts of immigration support against ICE's interventions in Santa Barbara

The annual ACM (Alternative Christmas Market) in December raised \$9,339 supporting the following organizations: Angels Bearing Gifts, AFDOJ (American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem), ERD (Episcopal Relief & Development), Unite to Light, World Dance for Humanity, Pathlight, and Heifer International.

JOC awarded grants equaling 5% of the church's pledge income to the following organizations:

- YouthWell Santa Barbara; \$2,000
- Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center; \$4,000
- Training Indian Leaders of the North Coast, Chumash Cycle of Renewal; \$2,000
- Training of two cadets for the Bucket Brigade; \$1,200
- Bucket Brigade's "Sponsor a Tree" program for the Elings Park Humanitarian Garden; \$250
- CEC (Community Environmental Council) scholarships; \$750
- Wilderness Youth Project scholarships; \$2,000
- Heal the Ocean; \$500
- Harding School's after school programs; \$3,350
- Storyteller Children's Center, reading and language programs; \$3,350
- 805 Undocufund, support for legal immigration programs; \$6,700
- Showers of Blessings, general operations; \$1,850
- Organic Soup Kitchen, general operations; \$1,850
- Sarah House, general operations; \$1,850
- Kingdom Causes Santa Barbara Catalytic Project (against human trafficking in our county); \$1,850

JOC continues making annual awards of \$2,000 each to our historic ministries:

- Harding School Foundation
- Sarah House
- Transition House
- St. Michael's University Church, Isla Vista.

Submitted by: Jeffrey Krutzsch, Co-Chair