

Rector's Report for June 25, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Worship - May and June have been busy liturgical months, with the celebration of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, along with Graduation Sunday, the choir's last Sunday, and coming up this week, our celebration of Juneteenth Sunday. // We've resumed the use of real bread (rather than wafers) for communion, beginning on Trinity Sunday.

Adult Education/Formation - The adult formation planning team met in May to brainstorm ideas for the 2025-2026 program year, which we'll finalize in July. 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 7 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits. A newcomer brunch is taking place 6/21 at the rectory, with 25 people scheduled to attend.

Leadership - The Invite/Welcome/Connect steering committee continues to meet, to follow up on projects the subcommittees have been working on. // We had a Greeter Training brunch at the rectory, with Welcome Chair, John Spence, reviewing the Greeter handbook with the greeters. // I met with parishioner Michele Mollkoy, who will be facilitating the leadership retreat at the end of August, talking about how to have "crucial conversations."

Financial things - I participated in the Finance Committee meeting on 6/11 to review the May 2025 financials. That same day, the Audit Committee met with Mark the CPA to get instructions on how to carry out the individual tasks each auditor is responsible for.

Weddings - I've been working with a couple getting married at Trinity at the end of the month, as well as with my niece and her fiancé, who'll be getting married in Ohio in July. // At this point, we're on track to have 8 weddings at Trinity in 2025, with requests coming in for 2026.

Outside building use - Besides our usual groups who use Trinity's space (CLUE, Ring Shout, AA), we welcomed the Adelfos choir for their spring/summer concert, and Bill Wood for a Noon Concert at Trinity. Drivers Listos held a large training at Trinity, with 50+ people in attendance.

Miscellany: I attended the CYC-sponsored movie night on the labyrinth, where, along with about 20 other people, we watched Inside Outside 2. The new portable screen and projector we purchased earlier in the year were put to good use. It was a wonderful way to enjoy our labyrinth space. // The ongoing issue with water usage and high water bills has been solved/addressed. Working with Stephen Singleton, he got us in touch with a landscape irrigation specialist, who reprogrammed our landscape watering system, and inspected everything for leaks, broken heads, etc.

Broader church and community - The Bishop search committee launched the diocesan profile on June 2, and candidate applications have begun to come in; applications are due by

June 27. // I attended a presentation at All Saints by the Sea by theologian and writer, Miroslav Volf, about his newest book, The Cost of Ambition. // I've been attending webinars put on by EMM (Episcopal Migration Ministries) to learn more about the LA protests, ICE activity in Southern California, and how EDLA's Sacred Resistance group is supporting targeted immigrants who've been illegally detained. // Along with about a dozen Trinity folks, I attended the Santa Ynez Valley Pride Parade in Solvang. // I'll be participating in an Interfaith service at the Old Mission on June 29, in the afternoon, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Santa Barbara earthquake.

Personal - My Friday printmaking class is done for the season (no classes in summer), so perhaps to fill that art void, I attended a show at the Westmont art museum, called On The Edge. // I'll be traveling to Ohio in July, to officiate my niece's wedding.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth+

June 20, 2025

Associate Rector Report, June 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Hospitality Council

I met with Council Co-Chairs Isao Sugano and Georg Rice to check in around Hospitality Council business. We have decided to change the name from the "Kitchen Guild" ministry to "Coffee Hour Helpers," in order to have the name be more representative of the actual ministry. Isao and I have invited more parishioners into this ministry and we have 4 new people being trained. Isao did a great job inviting people to contribute to make a special coffee hour for the Sunday we celebrated Rev. Mark Asman's ordination anniversary.

Adult formation

Elizabeth and I are in the process of meeting with the adult formation committee to plan offerings for 2025-2026. I have invited local author and Jungian Dave Richo to offer a workshop after church on July 13th. The topic will be "From payback to loveback: relating with loving kindness."

Justice and Outreach

The Faro Center meal ministry is going well. We are hoping it will continue after July, but waiting to see what happens. The Faro Center is in a dispute with the city. JOC hosted a successful blood drive for Vitalant. Ken Johnson promoted Gun Violence Awareness month with reps from Moms Demand Action at coffee hour on 2 Sundays. Trinity is participating in a summer clothing drive with Doctors Without Walls. Anita Perez Ferguson (with Betty's support) continues to write the monthly Justice and Outreach newsletter with wonderful opportunities for congregational engagement.

Compline

Compline is taking a break for the summer, but the sacristans (a group of Trinity Compline volunteers) came over to my house for a thank you gathering. We had a wonderful evening together.

Invite Welcome Connect

I serve on the steering committee for the Invite Welcome Connect ministry. We are looking at our system for welcoming and connecting newcomers and incorporating them into parish life.

Pastoral Care

The Bouquet Blessings ministry is welcoming at least one new delivery driver. I am training one new lay eucharistic visitor who will be able to visit people with the Eucharist in their homes. I continue to meet weekly with our pastoral care team to go over the pastoral needs of the congregation. I meet with people in homes, hospitals, and by phone every week.

Community Engagement

I attended two protests this month: The ICE out of 805 protest/rally on June 10th and the No Kings protest on June 14th. Elizabeth and I continue to stay connected to the "sacred resistance" group in the diocese who offer information, training, and actions to protect local immigrants.

Personal

Gwyneth graduated from junior high (La Colina) and now we really feel like our kids are growing up! I just returned from a few days in northern California with my mom. It was good to spend some time together having fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Senior Warden Report
June, 2025

Welcome Team Support:

- We had a very successful Greeters' Brunch at the Rectory. Elizabeth prepared a wonderful meal, while John Spence effectively guided the Greeters through the updated manual.

Connect Team Support:

- The nine Food with Friends groups have all met at least once and are providing positive feedback on their success. The Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee agreed that initiating another round in the fall is a good idea.

Other projects:

- The Adult Formation team has met and will meet again soon to plan the offerings for summer and fall.
- Susan Krutzsch and I are still leading the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee. Our team's latest project focuses on enhancing our tracking system for new individuals joining the church. At our last meeting, we recommitted to keeping the Invite Welcome Connect ministry vibrant and effective. It is a very helpful framework for keeping us on track.
- Elizabeth and I are actively recruiting for a new chair for Building & Grounds.

On a personal note: I am busy with PFLAG Pride events and will soon head to LA to enjoy the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus perform "Dancing Queens" and see if I can pick out Christopher's voice.

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden