

Rector's Report for March 25, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Pastoral care / newcomer: Since our last Vestry meeting in late January, I've met with 17 people for pastoral care and/or to get to know them as newcomers. In February, I hosted a Newcomer Brunch at the rectory with more than 20 newcomers in attendance.

Adult Education/Formations: In January, Rev. Mark Asman led a 2-part series diving more deeply into the Dignity Index (something he talked about in his sermon during the White Christian Nationalism preaching series, in October). // In late February/early March, Phylene Wiggins and Joe Wheatley presented information over 3 weeks about "Becoming a more dementia friendly church." // On March 8, we kicked off our Lenten series with a workshop looking at different ways to read and understand scripture, drawing on the approaches we use in unpacking other literary texts, i.e. poetry. The Rev. Dr. Gary Hall led the program, and we've continued to draw on what he presented that day during our Wednesday evening Lenten series, with more than 40 people participating.

Worship: I was pleased to be with the people of Samarkand at their monthly Eucharist in February. Rev. Michael Corrigan, who has moved back to Santa Barbara from upstate New York, will be taking over the Samarkand services for the months that he's in town and available. // I'm grateful to have had our guest preacher, Karen Rice, with us on Transfiguration Sunday in early March. Karen is an active board member of PFLAG, and made a wonderful connection between the authenticity of members of the trans community, and the story of the Transfiguration. // We kicked off our observance of Lent with three services on Ash Wednesday; Sarah Thomas and I were invited to distribute ashes during the chapel service at Westmont. // We have been busy making plans for all the various Holy Week services and related activities (Maundy Thursday dinner, Easter Vigil reception, decorating/flowering the church.)

Children, Youth, Young Adults: In mid-January, members of Trinity's Youth Group joined Youth Groupers from the Unitarian Society to travel to the immigrant shelter in La Cobina Mexico. Two weeks later, they offered a presentation about their trip after the 10am service, and raised funds for the shelter with a Bake Sale. // I attended, and offered Eucharist at the Watershed dinner church for young adults in February and March. // Members of Trinity's and the Unitarian Society's Youth Groups enjoyed a scavenger hunt, games, a movie, and a late-night Eucharist at their Youth Group Overnight in early March. // The CYC (Children and Youth Council) hosted and organized a fabulous intergenerational Mardi Gras party on Tuesday, March 4, enjoyed by 150 people. Lots of great carb-laden food, followed by lively music and dancing and *multiple* King Cakes, which traveled all the way to Santa Barbara from New Orleans. // Catechists and Trinity's Children and Youth Director put together a wonderful Eucharist retreat weekend (Friday evening, all day Saturday, Sunday morning) for 5 children who attend the church school. I was privileged - along with my colleague Sarah Thomas - to be part of the retreat, offering the sacrament of reconciliation, and presiding at the Eucharist.

Leadership: The Invite/Welcome/Connect steering committee continues to meet, to check in on projects proposed by the I/W/C sub-groups. // The senior warden (Georgia Noble) and I hosted a new vestry orientation for our 5 new vestry members. We enjoyed a dinner together on a Friday night, at the rectory, and then spent Saturday morning at the church, going over the particulars of how the vestry operates, responsibilities, etc., along with a tour of areas of the church people aren't necessarily familiar with. // Much of January and early February were about preparing for Trinity's Annual Meeting on February 9, including creating the Annual Report, and finalizing the 2025 budget. // The finance committee, of which I'm a member, met in mid-March to review the financial results from January and February. (January financials cannot be created until after the 2025 budget is approved at the February 9 Annual Meeting.)

Other: Trinity hosted an "Inauguration of love" labyrinth walk on inauguration day in January, to provide a safe and contemplative space for people in the community to spend time that day. // I was happy to attend an online workshop hosted by the Episcopal Migration Ministries, about understanding your rights - as an individual and as a church - in relation to increased ICE raids // I am on 2 bishop search subcommittees (application/interview questions and recruitment), and our work is ramping up, with the aim to begin accepting applications in early June. // We've (we = mostly Brian Bargiel) been working on the church sound system and upgrading our streaming capabilities. // I was able to attend a mini retreat led by John Philip Newell at All Saints, Montecito, and to hear Brian McLaren at the Way Collective, talking about his latest book, Life after Doom. // There is currently a discernment group underway - they've been meeting for about 6 months - helping someone at Trinity discern whether they may be called to ordained ministry as a deacon. Sarah Thomas and I have also been speaking to two other individuals who are interested in exploring a possible call to ordained ministry, as well.

Personal: The printmaking class I've been taking from Siu and Don Zimmerman at SBCC for the past few years started up again in late January; I have plans - including airline tickets! - to travel to Massachusetts after Easter to visit my daughter, Eli.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth+

March 21, 2025

Associate Rector Report for March 25, 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

Since we had the Annual Meeting and Leadership Retreat in February, the Parish Council only met once since our last Vestry meeting. We spent time on formation together and we welcomed Isao Sugano, new co-chair of Hospitality. We reflected on carrying forward learnings from the Leadership Retreat. It was great having our Senior Warden Georgia in attendance as a bridge to Vestry.

Hospitality Council

I have updated the job descriptions of the co-chairs to make Alex Thomas' transition off and Isao Sugano's transition on as smooth as possible. Isao, Georg Rice, and I met to orient them to this important leadership position. I anticipate good things from these two! I am supporting them in their oversight of Kitchen Guild as well as their organizing for the fast approaching Holy Week. We are considering making a change with coffee hour since parishioners aren't really signing up to bring snacks. We might go back to the church providing some simple snacks. We also need more people to help with the Kitchen Guild at Coffee Hour.

JOC

I continue to serve as staff liaison to the Justice and Outreach Council. I am supporting their work on planning an upcoming Climate workshop in early May – meeting with the planning team and offering support as needed.

Compline

We have had two Complines since our last Vestry meeting – both have gone great with wonderful attendance. The sacristans (the small group of volunteers who help set up the space and make tea) have become a real community.

Youth

During the youth group overnight, I had the honor of creating and leading a late-night 10pm Eucharist with the youth from Trinity and the Unitarian Society. We gathered in a dark, candle-lit chancel and enjoyed Eucharist together. Also, the Eucharistic Retreat for 5 children took place last weekend and Elizabeth and I participated in the Rite of Reconciliation with them. It was so meaningful. Afterwards, we led a Eucharist with the children and their families.

Pastoral Care

I attended the Dementia-Friendly Church forums and have had good follow-up conversations with people. I continue to meet with parishioners in need – in their

homes, hospital rooms, and over the phone. We have a weekly pastoral care meeting where we go over the pastoral needs in the parish.

Leadership Retreat

For this year's retreat we decided to have it be a real retreat-feel, since our recent ones have been project-heavy. I created a full day for our leadership (vestry and parish council) around the theme of "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." We journaled, sang, shared, reflected, and prayed. I invited three guests to provide soulful options for the afternoon activities. It was a nourishing day.

FARO Center

We have had two FARO meals since our last Vestry Mtg. The volunteers continue to be a nice mix of newcomers and old-timers. The guests at the Center love the food we make. It continues to be a thriving ministry for Trinity.

Sacraments

I am currently meeting with two couples for pre-marital counseling.

Community Outreach

In February, I was invited to speak on a panel at Westmont around the topic of vocation and spiritual gifts. It led to good connections with some students whom I have followed up with. I attended our local town hall meeting to address the injustices happening due to the current administration. I have attended two local Santa Barbara Clergy Association meetings, where I serve as treasurer. One topic was around addressing grief as a pastor. And the other was around immigration issues - especially helping people know their rights and knowing how the church can be a public and private space.

Personal

I attended my daughter's senior show at Chapman and had a wonderful family weekend celebrating her. I am attending a weekly Zoom workshop led by Dr. Michael Kearney around deep resilience in order to make sure I am in a grounded place as I attend to my role as a priest at Trinity during these unstable times. Grateful for wise elders among us.

Senior Warden Report

March 2025

My last communication with you was the year-end update on the Invite Welcome Connect ministry and our integration of this new ministry. The highlights of my work since then are as follows.

New Vestry Orientation:

Elizabeth and I planned and delivered an orientation for our five new vestry members: Michael Arnold, Jay Casbon, Michelle Petty, Alexander Thomas, and Ellen Whittet. We welcome the class of 2025 with open arms and a lot of excitement.

The Leadership Retreat:

I was part of the design team that planned and executed the Leadership Retreat. The feedback has been positive, with a shared consensus that it was profoundly nourishing. Thank you, Sarah, for a wonderful day.

Connect Team Support:

- The “Small Groups” Working Team I am part of continues to meet under the leadership of Michael Arnold. We are planning a training session for small group leaders on a Saturday this spring. The theme will be “Best Practices for Deepening Connection and Purpose.” The target audience will include leaders and current participants in small groups and ministry.
- Susan Krutzsch and I are working with the Parish Council, ministry leaders, and Betty Wenzel to prepare for the next Ministry Fair on May 4.
- We are also launching another round of Food with Friends at the Ministry Fair.

I see a few sign-up sheets in your future.

Other projects:

- I, along with Elizabeth, Gary Hall, John Draper, and Caryl Casbon, have been part of the design team for our Lenten Series, and it is going very well.
- Jane Forsyth and I are organizing the “Flowering of the Church” for Easter, which includes ordering flowers, reaching out to volunteers, and preparing our hearts for resurrection.

On a personal note:

When you read this, I will have visited Los Angeles to see my son Christopher perform in The Los Angeles Gay Men’s Chorus, “Rhinestone Cowboys.” What fun!

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry

March 25, 2025

For the period of February 1-28, 2025

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot

Profit & Loss (P&L)	February	YTD
Income	76,695.35	265,620.52
Expenses	81,158.33	165,958.01
Net Income	(4,462.98)	99,662.51

- **Current cash**, as of February 28, 2025
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Operating Account: 245,225.64
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Capital Projects: 47,425.27
 - Petty Cash: 20.00
- **Schwab Investments**, value as of February 28, 2025
 - Looking Beyond Ourselves (LBO): 1,140,130.19
 - Brackenbury: 1,482,528.78
 - Reserve Funds: 311,564.70
 - Mark Asman PT Fund: 81,929.43
 - Total: 3,016,153.10

Notes

- **Early trends look good.** Across all categories, income is slightly above budget and expenses are slightly below. Our Loose Plate is above budget, confirming our decision to keep our projections conservative, and our Pledges start off the year strong.
- **Preparing for Vestry-approved B&G projects.** We have not yet taken the first distribution from our investment funds (Brackenbury and LBO). Starting in March we should start seeing both income and expenses for these Vestry-approved capital projects.

Submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
March 12, 2025

For any questions or comments:
keithcobell@gmail.com
415.350.0443