

Rector's Report for February 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

Adult formation: Many thanks to Sarah Thomas and the team she put together to make the visit by author Diana Butler Bass at Trinity possible. // We've spent the last month or so working on the plans for this year's Lenten workshop and Lenten series, all about the psalms. Our workshop presenter on 2/21 was Vicki Garvey, a biblical scholar (especially Hebrew Scriptures). 40+ people attended the workshop, with more expected to attend during the 5 coming Wednesday sessions. // The adult formation committee met to put together plans for the rest of 2026. // The Lenten devotional book was finalized and published, and copies have been made available to Trinity parishioners. Special thanks to Christine Purcell, Betty Wenzel, Sarah Thomas, Grace Wenzel and Lucy Bell for their work in putting the book together, along with all the people who contributed reflections.

Children/Youth/Young Adult: As I write this report, a group of Trinity and Unitarian Society youth, along with some adult chaperones, are in Mexicali visiting the La Cobina migrant shelter. // I attended, along with others in our Trinity cohort, the second Thriving Communities gathering sponsored by the Gaede Institute at Westmont College, where we continued work on our project to find ways for young adults to tell and share their stories. // Theo and I hosted the Gradient group from Westmont at a dinner at the rectory. It was great to meet a new group of students, and hear their stories about life on campus as an LGBTQ+ person. // The February Watershed dinner was held with young adults from the Unitarian Society, where we talked about our different faith traditions while we enjoyed wonderful pizza together. // The CYC hosted an all-parish Mardi Gras event, which was a spectacular success with wonderful breakfast foods, king cake, and beignets, followed by line dancing taught by one of Theo's housemates, who's an experienced line dancing instructor.

Pastoral Care/Newcomers: Over the past month, I met with 6 people for pastoral care and/or newcomer visits.

Worship: We finished up the season after the Epiphany on Transfiguration Sunday, and marked the beginning of Lent with three Ash Wednesday services. // Sarah Thomas, Tom Joyce and I met to do liturgy planning that took us through the first half of Lent, and we'll be meeting next week to finalize plans for the rest of Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the beginning of Eastertide. // I'm looking forward to hearing from our guest preacher, Vicki Garvey, on 2/22; Vicki was the presenter at our Lenten workshop on 2/21.

Leadership/Financial things: Retiring senior warden, Georgia Noble, and I met with the new vestry members for a new vestry orientation dinner at the rectory, followed by an informational session and building tour. // I've begun weekly meetings with newly appointed senior warden, Brian Bargiel. // Much of the end of January and beginning of February was spent finalizing all my submissions for the annual report, and meeting with business manager, Cami Segna, to put the finishing touches on the 2026 budget, especially as new pledges continued to come in. We were delighted to be able to present to the congregation yet another

balanced budget. // I met with Chris Mollkoy to review the status of the items on the 2025 capital improvements list, and some ideas for other projects in 2026. Chris will be meeting with the B&G committee soon to develop their priority list for 2026, to be approved by the vestry. // I met with representatives from Church Insurance, in order to meet with our new account rep, and give him a tour of our church buildings and property.

Broader church and community: I participated in Trinity's Vigil of Peace and Light, as well as the Sacred Resistance action at Target. // I met with Eileen Read to make plans for: an iftar dinner at the Islamic society, a group book study together, as well as a "pulpit swap" between me and Imam Wael Hagazy.

Personal: I'm preparing to travel to North Dakota in mid-March, where I've been asked to preach at the consecration of their bishop-elect, my dear friend, Rev. Shay Craig. // Making plans for some post-Easter travel with my brother and sister-in-law. We're meeting in Phoenix, and will spend a few days in the area exploring Saguaro National Park, Sedona, and the Grand Canyon.

Respectfully submitted,
February 21, 2026
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, February 2026 Vestry Mtg.

Parish Council

The Parish Council didn't meet in February due to the Annual Mtg, at which we thanked parishioners Jeannie Christensen (Worship Chair), Jeffrey Krutzsch (JOC co-chair), and Mary Gibson (CYC co-chair) for their years of dedicated service on the Parish Council.

Supper Club

Parishioners made a home-made meal for the Vera Cruz Village residents on 2/19. This was the best one yet. We are figuring out the flow and getting to know each other. The residents look forward to this evening and we are enjoying this meaningful ministry. Now that we are officially on the Vera Cruz calendar, this looks like Supper Club will continue once a month.

Compline

Compline was wonderful in February, at which parishioner and artist Dane Goodman was our storyteller. We used multimedia for the first time, with a large screen and projector to display some of Dane's artwork. Attendance was great and people loved the evening. We are needing a more regular group of volunteers ("sacristans").

JOC

JOC is gathering for an in-person meeting on 2/23. At the time of this writing, we haven't yet met, but Ralph Armbruster and I are planning to make the focus of this meeting a discussion on the current state of JOC. We are hoping to re-visit the mission and vision of JOC and return to the basics this year, in order to shape up the process and group norms. Once those are in place, we hope to recruit some new members with clear membership expectations.

Adult Formation

I planned an evening with author Diana Butler Bass on 2/4, which was a wonderful community evening with a presentation by the speaker, a Candlemas liturgy, and a book signing/reception afterwards. About 70 people were in attendance, including parishioners and members of the community – even some people from Thousand Oaks. The Adult Formation planning group met as well to envision the coming year. Elizabeth is hard at work on the Lenten series that is just beginning. I am supporting with hospitality.

Pastoral Care

I meet with many parishioners to offer pastoral care at home, in my office, in the hospital, and at coffee shops. The Bouquet Blessings ministry is on pause for Lent. We are still in search of a new leader for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, as Norma is stepping off after many years of service, but there are still lots of prayer shawls waiting for recipients in the prayer shawl closet. Helping Hands continues to offer meal trains from time to time. The LEVs (Lay Eucharistic Visitors) haven't been requested much. Anne Roediger and Michael Arnold do the majority of these visits, but there are a few others who are trained and available.

Sacraments

I am preparing one couple for marriage and planning one memorial service with a family.

Worship

Elizabeth and I meet with Tom every few weeks to plan upcoming liturgy. We held 3 services on Ash Wednesday - it was very good attendance.

Community Outreach

On 1/30 I attended a press conference held at the courthouse in support of elected officials who are speaking out against ICE's presence in Santa Barbara and putting pressure on the sheriff to do more to protect our citizens. Clergy presence was requested and it was good to join others in support of our elected leaders. On 2/10, Elizabeth and I attended "Clericus," the regional gathering of clergy in our "deanery." It was held at St. Patrick's in Thousand Oaks and the speaker shared a presentation about addiction and harm reduction. On 2/11 I attended our local interfaith clergy association meeting and we discussed everyone's comfort/freedom around taking action in support of our immigrant neighbors. It was interesting to notice how many local clergy don't feel able to speak out about their true views. I am very grateful to serve at a parish that supports my engagement in justice efforts outside the walls of the church, and for the freedom to speak boldly from the pulpit. It is not as common as one might think, even in the Episcopal Church. Later that evening, I led an action at Target to speak out against the corporation's silence around ICE. Rev. Tim Black, vicar of St. Mike's, joined me in leading the action (connected to other actions by Sacred Resistance in LA) and we were joined by about 20 people. It was a great experience. Quite a few parishioners have shared that they would like to join the next action, whatever that ends up being. On 2/14 I attended the SB Neighbor Walks event at the downtown farmer's market. It was fun to support DJ Johnson of Kingdom Causes, and to meet other community members who wanted to learn more about the farmers and the market. On 2/22 I will lead a walk with interested parishioners to the public library after church to check out the Black history timeline that is installed during the month of February. On 2/24 I have been asked to make public comment at the County Board of Supervisors meeting in support of a local initiative against "CSEC," the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth. I have agreed to be part of a community group in support of this 3-year long goal of making more happen in this regard in our county.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry
February 24, 2026

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot: January 2026

Income and Expenses	Actual	Budget
Income	195,593.53	193,297.00
Expenses	80,389.37	84,917.81
Net Income	115,204.16	108,319.19

Notes

- **Strong Financial Start to 2026** January was a great month for the church financially - we brought in \$195,593.53 (well more than we budgeted for) and we kept expenses under control at the same time. That combination produced a net income of \$115,204.16 for the month, holding onto significantly more than we spent. It's the kind of start that gives us confidence heading into the rest of the year and flexibility to respond to needs as they arise. An encouraging way to kick off 2026!
- **Healthy Financial Reserves** The church is in a strong financial position, with total assets over \$4 million to back us up. That includes \$3.27 million in investment funds and another \$754,563.09 sitting in our operating and restricted bank accounts. Having reserves at this level means the church has real staying power to weather unexpected expenses or slower giving months. Simply put, we have a solid financial cushion that allows us to focus on ministry rather than worry about making ends meet.
- **Capital Projects Progress** The church is actively working on improvements to the rectory, parish building, and church building to keep our campus in good shape for everyone who walks through our doors. We have \$102,628.76 set aside specifically for these projects, so the work won't disrupt our regular operating budget or impact day-to-day ministry. Maintaining our facilities is an ongoing responsibility, and we're committed to being proactive rather than waiting for small issues to become costly problems. It's all part of taking good care of the property our congregation calls home.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Cobell, Treasurer.
February 24, 2026

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

Senior Warden Report February 2026

My focus this month has been preparing for my term and onboarding as Senior Warden. Georgia has left big shoes to fill, and I am grateful for the treasure trove of information she has left for me and the support she will continue to provide.

Congratulations to the Vestry on presenting a balanced budget during the annual meeting. Thanks to Grace and Betty Wenzel for commemorating the past year with a wonderful slide presentation. Immediately following the meeting, the new Vestry class met and elected Michael Arnold as our Junior Warden. Congrats and thank you Michael for being willing to serve.

I have begun to meet regularly with Elizabeth and look forward to supporting her in leading our parish.

I was able to attend the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee meeting and look forward to assisting in their work whenever I am able.

Other Projects and Activities:

- Andria and I hosted a group of parishioners for January's *Together at the Table* series of gatherings. It was great to make some new friends and deepen relationships with those we already knew.
- I was able to borrow a second flat-top griddle for the Mardis Gras pancake dinner fundraiser for Trinity Youth, which allowed Isao Sugano and his team to make more than enough flapjacks to fill everyone's bellies. It was great to see all of the costumes and dancing and a lot of group participation.
- I was able to contribute to the Lenten devotional booklet *Bread for the Journey*, a wonderful project spearheaded by Christine Purcell which collected reflections, prayers, and art from over 40 Trinity parishioners. Great job, Christine and team!
- Elizabeth has tasked me with investigating the possibility of applying for a grant to upgrade our building security systems, including cameras and entry access.

I welcome the opportunity to serve our parish. Please track me down if there is anything I can do for you and our community.

Blessings,
Brian Bargiel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN
REPORT TO VESTRY

February 24, 2026

I have only been Junior Warden for a couple of weeks so I don't have much to report.

On Tuesday, 17 February, I attended the first meeting of our newly constituted Executive Committee. Also in attendance were Brian Bargiel, Senior Warden; Sarah McCarter, Secretary; (by Zoom) Keith Cobell, Treasurer; Elizabeth Molitors, Rector; and Sarah Thomas, Associate Rector.

The only item that specifically involved the Junior Warden was acknowledging that there needs to be an established way for parishioners to report facilities (buildings and grounds) issues they think need attention.

After the meeting, Brian introduced me to Chris Mollkoy, the new Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Chris and I agreed to meet soon.

The first item on my "To Do" list is to establish a way for parishioners to communicate with leadership about building and grounds issues.

Respectfully,
Michael Neal Arnold
Junior Warden