

Rector's Report for December 3, 2025 Vestry Meeting

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

Worship - At the end of October, Trinity hosted guest preacher, the Rev. Francisco Garcia, who is active in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles's Sacred Resistance group, focused on advocacy and protection of immigrants' rights. // On All Saints Sunday, we had one adult who was baptized at the 10am service, we renewed baptismal vows, and the necrology (list of those who have died) was read. // Sarah and I conducted a 'house leaving' ceremony for a parishioner moving out of their house after 53 years. // I've been working with the Bergquist family to plan a memorial service (offsite) for their son, Matthew (which is happening 11/28), and have begun plans for a service at Trinity for Dave Wyman who recently passed away. The service will be in mid-January. // The members of the Altar Guild met, to help new members get to know long-term members, and to review various changes to the setup process. I was on hand to field questions.

Adult Education/Formation - On October 26, after the 10am service, our guest preacher, the Rev. Francisco Garcia, presented information about non-violent resistance - a strategy that the Sacred Resistance group employs during protests about immigrants being targeted without due process. // After presenting a forum on centering prayer on October 12, the Rev. Christine Purcell then led five Centering Prayer sessions in Trinity's chapel on five successive Thursday afternoons. Based on the good response, I expect that she'll continue to offer centering prayer again after the holidays. // We had a showing of the documentary, *Traces of the Trade*, which tells the story of the largest slave-trading family in the U.S., based in Rhode Island. A followup discussion took place about 2 weeks later.

Pastoral Care / Newcomers: Over the past weeks since our last meeting, I met with 13 people for pastoral care or newcomer visits. // Coming out of the Invite/Welcome/Connect program, Sarah and Betty and I have instituted a process of reviewing, every other week, the list of newcomers, making contact with and scheduling followup newcomer meetings.

Financial things - The Finance committee met online 11/12 to review the September and October financials. // Ingathering Sunday took place on 11/9, with a blessing of the pledge cards during the one service that day, followed by a festive brunch hosted by the Vestry and Parish Council. We added 4 more tables to the setup in the parish hall, and all of them were filled - about 185 people attended the brunch.

Fundraisers - Two Trinity fundraisers are coming up in December.... December 6 is the Trinity Backstage Christmas event on the labyrinth, and on December 14th, we'll host the 5th Annual cookie walk. Both events are meant to be community events, so spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors!

Outside groups/events - in addition to the usual outside groups using Trinity's space (i.e. AA, Ring Shout, CLUE), a number of non-Trinity groups used Trinity's space over the past several weeks, including a wedding, the SB folk orchestra, UCSB concert, Noon concert, Community

grief circle, Warming center, and spiritual direction meetings). // Four weddings are already scheduled for 2026.

Children, Youth, and Young Adults - the Watershed Young Adult group met on November 2, enjoying a wonderful dinner provided by Ralph Lowi (a chef!). // The CYC (children and youth council) hosted its Second Annual Halloween Hullabaloo party, and I was able to put my T-rex costume to good use! It was great to see not only families with kids in attendance, but a lot of other parishioners, as well, all enjoying the various games and activities, as well as a dinner. // The Youth Group's trip to the La Cobina border shelter, scheduled for mid-November, got canceled due to weather conditions, and will be rescheduled in February. // For the third year in a row, CGS kids gathered with me and Mary Gibson in the church kitchen, to bake cookies that will be part of the Cookie Walk.

Broader church and community - In advance of the diocesan convention - the primary task of which was to elect the diocese's next bishop - I met with Trinity's delegation to talk through our impressions of the candidates, gleaned from their written materials and their presentations at meet-and-greet sessions held in late October. We also attended diocesan convention on November 7 and 8, and chose now-bishop-elect Antonio Gallardo on the 8th ballot. We also enjoyed a lively group dinner, hosted by Rev. Michael Corrigan, on Friday evening. // A group of Westmont students, working on a project for their communications class (about how an organization lives out its stated values) chose Trinity as their "case study." Students met with various staff members and parishioners, and attended a Sunday service and had a tour of the church. Part of their reason for choosing Trinity was due to their interest in a church with female leadership.

Personal - My nephew and his wife spent a few days with me in mid-November, and although it rained almost continually throughout their visit, we still found plenty of fun things to do, including a visit to the Farmer's Market with the chef from Bouchon, who incorporated market purchases into our menu for that evening. // I attended a wonderful performance of the Mozart Requiem at The Granada, where several Trinity folks were members of the chorus. I was also a guest at a fundraising gathering for the SB Gay Men's Chorus, and enjoyed hearing several soloists as well as members sharing their personal stories about what being part of the chorus means to them. // On Thanksgiving, I enjoyed a day of traveling up the central coast with my dogs, taking hikes at Oceano Dunes, the beach at Montana de Oro, and the Fiscalini Ranch. I'm so grateful for this beautiful place where I get to live and work!

Respectfully submitted,
November 28, 2025
Elizabeth+

Associate Rector Report, December 2025 Vestry Mtg.

Hospitality

The Ingathering Brunch on November 9th was a wonderful success. We were 185 people in the Parish Hall (!) and had plenty of seats and more than enough food. Many thanks to ALL of the Vestry and those on the Parish Council (especially Georg Rice) for all the ways you cooked and cleaned and served on that morning. We couldn't do it without all of you! Thank you!

The Coffee Hour Helpers are going strong with their weekly rotation to help at coffee hour. We could use some more people, but this ministry is working well. We could still use a better way to get yummy treats for coffee hour, but for now it is plugging along.

Supper Club

Even though we had a wonderful kick-off Supper Club in October, the property manager at Vera Cruz Village resigned, so we have to put a temporary pause on this new ministry. We are hoping to get it back going in December. I am praying that recent Federal funding changes don't impact Vera Cruz Village, but I'm almost certain they will, as it is in the category of "permanent supportive housing."

Justice & Outreach

The JOC has wrapped up their deliberations in deciding where Trinity justice grants will be awarded. Vestry is voting on their proposal at the December vestry meeting. Many thanks to Jeffrey Krutzsch for organizing and compiling this end-of-year process. Jeffrey is rotating off of JOC in February after many years as Chair. JOC is in need of a new co-chair to work with Ralph Armbruster and myself beginning in February 2026. Jennifer Bergquist is (yet again) doing a terrific job organizing the upcoming Alternative Christmas Market with the assistance of Jean Davis, Theo Patterson, Norma Stuck, Stephanie Sasaki, Mary Gibson, Eileen Read, and others.

We hosted a film screening of the documentary *Traces of the Trade* which was well attended. We had a lively discussion post-screening and a follow-up discussion on the following Sunday. We are discerning how we might continue the work of anti-racism at Trinity, both in formation and in action.

Compline

We had a terrific Compline with Joe Miller as the storyteller in November. Compline continues to bring in great attendance both with parishioners but also a lot of outside community people -- many young adults. Many thanks to Eva Braunstein for supporting the organization of this ministry.

Liturgy planning

Elizabeth and I met with Tom Joyce to plan worship for Advent. We work way ahead!

Sacraments

I am currently working with one couple for pre-marital counseling before their 2026 wedding.

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 going well, and will take a pause for Advent. We are in search of a new leader for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, as Norma is stepping off after many years of service. Helping Hands has been busy with meal trains. Many thanks to Mac McNeel for heading up this wonderful ministry. I am meeting with two Westmont students to offer spiritual direction. This money will go into my clergy discretionary fund that I share with Elizabeth.

Personal

I am traveling up to northern California to visit my parents for Thanksgiving. Mitch has been in Macedonia and Armenia performing Uncle Vanya and King Lear and will meet us at SFO on our drive up. Zoe will fly down from Spokane to meet us as well. I'm looking forward to being all together for the holiday. Maddie will stay in London (where she is having a great time) and will fly home in December.

Senior Warden Report November 2025

My focus this month has been on support for the in-gathering of pledges and preparing for the end of my term as Senior Warden. I was one of the delegates at the diocesan convention in early November, helping discern the election of our new bishop.

Invite Welcome Connect Team Support: Susan Kruttsch and I are continuing to lead the Invite Welcome Connect Steering Committee.

- “Together at the Table,” a new program created to unite people for a single potluck meal at parishioners’ homes, was very successful, and we plan to repeat it after the first of the year. We are taking a pause over the holidays and will organize another one in January.

Other Projects and activities:

- Elizabeth and I successfully recruited Chris Mollkoy as the new chair of Building & Grounds. Chris is working on expanding the B & G team and getting oriented for picking up projects that have been on hold. A new Junior Warden will be elected when the incoming Vestry is installed after the first of the year.
- I recruited two people, Mona Mott Wilds and Judy Partch, to form a committee led by Jay Casbon to revitalize our Planned Giving program. The committee will include Elizabeth, and they will meet this month and make plans for the coming year.
- I was a delegate to the convention where we elected our new bishop, The Rev. Dr. Antonio Gallardo. The experience was terrific and occasionally tedious. I was reminded of how diverse our diocese is and how hopeful it is to be in the same room with so many people trying our best to follow the way of the Jesus Movement.
- I was part of the Vestry and Parish Council commitment to make and serve our ingathering brunch. I got to stand over the stove with Michael Arnold and serve mimosas with Alex. What a great event. Thank you, everyone!
- Jane Forsyth and I have been meeting, planning, ordering greens and flowers for our Christmas Festival.
- On a personal note, I had my son Christopher and his partner, Hamilton, with me for Thanksgiving. Delightful!

Blessings,
Georgia Noble, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden Report (People's Warden)

November 2025

Activities

Greeter, Welcome Table, Bouquet Blessings

Substituted 2 times for Greeters and Welcome Table

Cookie Walk Table at coffee hour and sang announcement at both services

Attended Compline and listened to Joe Miller's story. We sang together back in the day.

Delivered 3 meals for the meal train

Made two egg dishes for Men's Breakfast to help out since Isao was gone

Shopped for the ingathering brunch

Personal

My surgery went well and pathology was great. No treatment is necessary! The healing process has been more difficult than I expected and have had a few bumps in the road but trust it will all be fine in the end.

We're looking forward to having our daughter home for Thanksgiving. There will be 24 of us at our table for Thanksgiving and everyone is contributing so there will be no shortage of food.

Treasurer's Report to the Vestry

November 25, 2025

For the period of September 1 - October 31, 2025

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Snapshot

Profit & Loss (P&L)	October	YTD
Income	64,183.03	816,396.19
Expenses	75,813.14	825,334.58
Net Income	(11,630.11)	(8,938.39)

- **Current cash**, as of October 31, 2025
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Operating Account: 142,399.52
 - Montecito Bank and Trust Capital Projects: 68,352.91
 - Petty Cash: 50.00
- **Schwab Investments**, value as of October 31, 2025
 - Looking Beyond Ourselves (LBO): 1,254,994.59
 - Brackenbury: 1,573,744.94
 - Reserve Funds: 351,362.55
 - Mark Asman PT Fund: 90,168.59
 - **Total: 3,270,270.67**

Notes

- **Income performance is strong overall:** While pledge income is slightly under budget for both October and YTD, loose plate offerings, festival offerings, facilities use (YTD), parish fundraisers, and special gifts all exceed budget expectations, resulting in total income at 103.1% of budget YTD. A wonderful blessing!
- **Expenses remain well-controlled:** Most major expense categories (Clergy; Administration & Inclusion; Plant Maintenance; Music & Worship) are near or under budget for October and YTD, leading to total expenses at 97.9% of budget YTD, indicating effective cost management - a testament to the staff's leadership and good fiscal management.
- **Bottom line stays positive:** With income outperforming and expenses running below budget, the church maintains a solid financial position, reflected in positive net income year-to-date.