



Vestry Candidate Biographies

Chris Maguire: I was raised in the Catholic faith but became an Episcopalian at St. Paul's in 2012 following a rough patch in my personal life. I wasn't new to St. Paul's because I had been attending services on Holidays for many years (despite membership in a Dallas church 😊) having been drawn to the gorgeous music.

I joined my first church choir in 4th grade and have been in a number of voice and bell choirs since then, so I was thrilled to be accepted into Trinity Choir in 2012 when I became an official St. Paul's member; I have helped with Chi Yo prep and sales every year since. I also recently served for one year on the St. Paul's Memorial Donation Committee.

On the professional side, I'm a former university professor and federal government researcher. Currently I'm the lead Terrestrial Biologist for the Oregon Department of Transportation, and have been so since 2005.

I have never felt so at home in a church congregation as I do at St. Paul's and I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to St. Paul's for all that this church and its members give to me when I need it most.



Melinda Mokalla: I grew up during a lovely time at St. Paul's, participating in the choir as well as youth group and was an Acolyte from the time I could, until it was time to leave for school. To this day, I still have dear friends from my childhood at the church. I am proud to bring my children to St. Paul's where they can learn to be good citizens and explore their faith in a safe, warm and inviting atmosphere.



Linda Staples: I was raised in Anchorage and came to Oregon to attend Linfield College. After graduation I married a cradle Episcopalian and have been one now for thirty years. St. Paul's has been our church home for over 15 years. Our boys, Abram and Simon, were raised in this church. I've been involved with Chi Yo, women's programs, children's music programs, and vacation Bible school programs. I've taught Sunday school at our previous churches and at St. Paul's. I ran the Sunday School program here for several months while we were between administrators. Now that our nest is empty, I look forward to being a part of what St. Paul's does next.



Cott Thompson: I am a lifelong Episcopalian joining St. Paul's after the birth of my first child in 1984. While my children were in elementary school I helped teach Sunday School. I have been involved in Scouting at St. Paul's since 1990. In late 1990 I started serving as an Eucharistic Minister. I served as an Acolyte when I was in high school (in Pennsylvania) and have at times served as an Acolyte at St. Paul's. I am now also a member of the Altar Guild and chair of the Personnel Committee.

I believe we are called to serve the Lord by serving others. That is why I said yes when asked if I would stand for election to the Vestry. I also serve others in my day job as a lawyer primarily representing people charged with crimes.

