

Fall 2021 Nominations for St. Philip's Vestry

Each Nominee was asked to answer the following questions in their responses. Their responses are included.

Voting will take place December 5 via Doodle. The link will be sent to all qualified parishioners. Voting will also be available at church on December 5 after services. You are asked to vote for 4.

1. What gifts has God equipped you with, either from previous employment or from previous church experience, that may be helpful in serving St. Philip's parish?
2. How might God be calling you to serve as a member of St. Philip's Vestry?
3. If not elected to vestry at this time, how else might God be calling you to serve at St. Philip's?



Michele Barkalow

Michele has been a member of St. Philip's since 2017 and usually attends the 10:00 am service. She has been active in the life of the parish through participation in Choir, Parish Life Ministry Board, Pastoral Care Ministry Board and assisting with the ECW Fall Festival.

Michele has established and continues to manage the Healthcare Equipment Library at St. Philip's. She also performed in and helped to organize a benefit concert for St. Philip's after Hurricane Florence.

Question Responses:

1. My career as a physical therapist provided me with experience with working with all kinds of people, often in challenging situations, helping them to recover their abilities. Problem solving, planning, and effective communication were important, especially listening. Also, my knowledge of healthcare equipment helped me in establishing the equipment library.
2. Due to the limitations imposed by Covid-19, I feel that it has been easy to feel disconnected from St. Philip's. Some long-standing activities and programs have been discontinued or are on hiatus. And our transformation into a program church has changed how we do things. Moving forward beyond the pandemic, I hope to be instrumental in connecting new members, reconnecting long-standing members with our church and planning how to work together for ministry to our congregation and our community.
3. I will continue to sing in the choir and participate in the Pastoral Care Board, and assist in ECW activities.



Margaret Bearden

Margaret has been a member of St. Philip's since January 2017 and usually attends the 10:00 service. She has been active in the life of the parish through participation in the ECW Board (2019-present), Clerk of the Vestry (2018-present), Finance and Facilities Ministry Board (2019-present) and Assistant to the Treasurer (2019-present).

At previous parishes Margaret served on 2 vestries, was an ECW member, Parish Life Chairperson, Chairperson of St. Margaret's Guild, planned memorial garden construction and served as director of the Summer Food Program.

Question Responses

1. I spent 35 years as an investment advisor which should enable me to contribute to the business interests of St. Philip's. I've enjoyed serving in leadership positions in my former parishes, and for the past 4 years I've served as Clerk of the Vestry, which has given me firsthand knowledge of the workings of our vestry and parish. Working within the Finance and Facilities Board has also educated me with respect to the financial condition and priorities of St. Philip's.
2. Serving on the vestry as Clerk has enabled me, as a new member, to become familiar with the parish and its leadership. I'm now ready to take on a larger role as a member of the vestry.
3. I'll continue to assist the Treasurer and my other roles as Clerk and Finance and Facilities Ministry Board Member.



Bill Carney

Bill has been a member of St. Philip's since 2014 and attends the 8:00 am, 10:00 am and Zoom on occasion. He has been active in the life of the parish through participation in Vestry as Senior Warden and Junior Warden, a Counter, worked on the Capital Campaign, the Building Committee and the Stewardship Committee as well as a Diocesan Delegate.

Previously, Bill has been a Treasurer, Diocesan Delegate, member of the Vestry, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Operations Finance Chair, Head Acolyte and a Lay Reader and Eucharistic Minister.

Question Responses

1. God has given me the understanding of the workings of a program sized parish by putting me in two parishes that grow into program sized parishes. One from a small family sized through the pastoral/transitional size and into program sized and St. Philip's from pastoral/transitional size into program size. I have been given the understanding of the balanced role and gifts needed in both the business or secular world and in life as an Episcopalian – that is to combine doing the right thing and being fiscally responsible. I have learned to listen carefully to all and to be passionate about doing things right.
2. God has guided me to many different roles in the Episcopal Church and I have received great joy in many of the roles I have had over the years. After careful reflection, it is clear to me that the most joy and reward has been with my time on vestry. God has reminded me that there is not better way for me to live out my baptismal covenant and given me the ability to work with other vestry members and the clergy to lift our congregation and strengthen my relationship with God.
3. I will continue serving on the building committee and as a counter. I will continue to listen to where God is calling me to serve.



Susan Chase

Susan has been a member of St. Philip's since 2015 and usually attends the 10:00 am service. She has been active in the life of the parish through participation in Stephen Ministry (as a Stephen Ministry Leader and Stephen Minister), Choir, Lay Reader, Altar Guild, ECW, Pastoral Care Board, Faith Formation Board and as an Office "Angel".

Previously Susan has been a Vestry Member at St. Mark's in Gastonia, NC and a Vestry Member, Clerk of the Vestry, and Junior Warden at All Saints in Hamlet, NC.

Question Responses:

1. My previous work experience as a teacher and administrator in public education has equipped me with a good understanding of organizations and organizational change. I feel my experience at the board level of St. Philip's has given me a good understanding of how a program church works at that level and will help me function as an effective vestry member for St. Philip's, which is different from vestry service I experienced in the past!
2. "...strive to love God and love others in all we do", the vision statement of St. Philip's, excites me! We are growing and with that growth comes continued need for fresh eyes to see and fresh ears to listen to all parishioners moving forward along with the need to be open to change. I feel like God has blessed me with some of those qualities needed for service on the vestry at this time.
3. I will undoubtedly continue being active in my current ministries and always open to new ways to serve.



Geoff Gersen

Geoff has been a member of St. Philip's since 2014 and usually attends the 10:00 am service. He has been active in the life of the parish through participation in Choir, Stewardship, Faith Formation and is a past Vestry Member.

Geoff has served on the Vestry previously and has served as head of the Stewardship Committee.

Question Responses

1. God has given me an ability to work collaboratively with others to achieve goals.
2. God has given me a desire to perpetuate the church and its role in the area.
3. I will continue to serve as I have and seek out other ways to help.



Rick Pearce

Rick has been a member of St. Philip's since 2011 and usually attends the 10:00 am service. He has been active in the life of the parish through participation in Outreach (food packs), Grounds, Helping with Lobsters and other ministries when asked.

Previously Rick has been Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Deanery Representative, Diocesan Convention Delegate, and served on the Diocesan Convention Committee

Question Responses

1. As an insurance Adjuster and Agent I gained knowledge of construction and contracts, working with clients and handling their needs. I have been President of two Rotary Clubs (Germantown, MD and Southport, NC), President of Chamber of Commerce and a political campaign manager (four times).
2. St. Philip's has welcomed me as a member since 2011. I have learned much from the many friends Fallon and I have made since then. I would like to help St. Philip's to remain the church that we have all come to love.
3. I will remain a Deanery Representative and act as insurance advisor for St. Philip's for as long as wanted.