



153
ST. COLUMBA'S
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
Live God's Love

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION



2024 Candidates

CANDIDATES FOR WARDEN

Gina Lagomarsino, Senior Warden

Andrew Marshall, Junior Warden

CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

Jeremiah Williams

Kay Tatum

James Knight

Stephanie O'Keefe

Farleigh Earhart

(to complete the term of a vacant seat)

CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Charlotte Jackson

Kristin McNavage

Stacy Notaras Murphy

CANDIDATES FOR ALTERNATE DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Karen Burgess

Sondra Mills

VOTING OPEN OCT. 31 TO NOV. 10

CANDIDATES FOR WARDEN



GINA LAGOMARSINO
SENIOR WARDEN

I am so grateful that I found St. C's 16 years ago. I have been transformed by this vibrant community that inspires me every day to Live God's Love.

Our vibrant community is embarking on a joyful celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2024. This will be an opportunity to revisit our history while also looking ahead to the future. I'm very excited about envisioning Our Future Church and beginning the process of calling a new rector who will help us continue to live the mission and priorities that we co-created together in recent years.

I'd be so pleased to serve another year as junior warden. I look forward to navigating this year of celebration, reflection and action together with many other congregational leaders, our fantastic staff, my vestry colleagues, Ledlie, and Sara Glenn, our senior warden.

Occupation: CEO, Results for Development (International nonprofit specializing in health and education)

Family: Ken Johnson, Liana Johnson (20) and Elias Johnson (17)



ANDREW MARSHALL
JUNIOR WARDEN

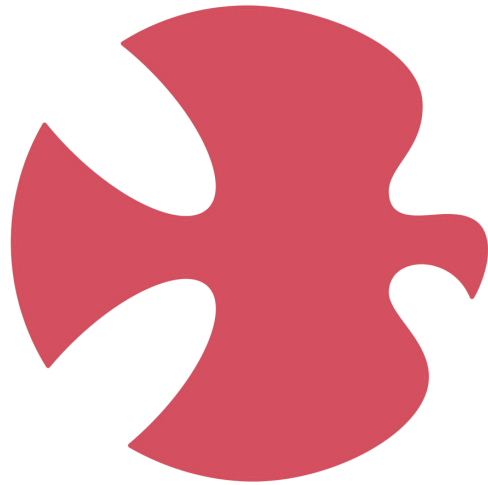
Our family first attended St. Columba's on Palm Sunday in 2014 when we moved to the neighbourhood, just before our daughter was born. Since then, St. Columba's has become central to our lives. I have been a member of the vestry for three years and when I was asked to stand as Warden, I was delighted, humbled and honored. This is an important time in our history.

For most of the last ten years my family has gone to Wee Church. The multigenerational aspects of the church - especially its focus on children and youth - are very important to me, and I hope to champion them as warden. I will also focus on building relationships between the Vestry and the church's many ministries. I live in the neighbourhood, and usually attend the 9am service and Wednesday supper.

I was born in the United Kingdom and lived in Brussels, Washington DC and New York, which is where I met Elizabeth, my wife. I worked as a foreign correspondent and foreign editor for British and international newspapers, and for a US-based risk management company. I now work for a global research organization that focuses on climate and the environment, World Resources Institute, having worked for several other think tanks in Washington DC.

Occupation: Communications

Family: Elizabeth, Alice (10)



CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

The vestry is the agent and legal representative of the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy.

The vestry consists of the rector, the senior warden, the junior warden and 12 members of the parish, who are elected for three-year terms.



Jeremiah Williams

Occupation: Law firm partner and Chartered Financial Analyst

Family: Sarah Williams (spouse), Abigail (14) and Naomi (11)

My family joined St. Columba's thirteen years ago when my older daughter was just a toddler. We live in the neighborhood and were drawn to the Wee Worship service. One of the things that I like most about St. Columba's is its focus on children, and I was part of the team faced with the difficult task of finding a replacement for Pattie Ames as Director of Children's Ministries. I am honored to be invited to stand for Vestry. I believe that St. Columba's has an obligation to satisfy our congregation's spiritual development while also supporting the broader community beyond our doors. I also think it is important that the church maintain a strong financial position so that it can fulfill its mission. I look forward to helping St. Columba's in the next phase of its journey.



Kay Tatum

Occupation: Retired corporate transactional lawyer

Family: Spouse, Dick Tatum, and grown sons, Jonathan and Robert Tatum

Our family was introduced to Saint Columba's in 1991 when our older son started at the nursery school. By 1997, when our younger son was graduating, we absolutely did not want to leave the Saint Columba's community and became parishioners in 1997. I have taught Sunday School and served on the nursery school Board of Governors for 6 years, including 3 as Chair. I serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and a member of Ledlie's Human Resources Committee.

In the near term, the diocese and the parish will undoubtedly expect selection of a new rector and facilitation of that person's and the parish's transitions to the new leadership to be top priorities for the Vestry, as they should be. I think the Vestry must simultaneously take particular care to continue to encourage and support parishioners in actively pursuing our articulated mission, including outreach and community building, to avoid being an institution "on hold" or "in waiting."



James Knight

*Occupation: Deputy Division Chief, Institute Training Program, IMF
Family: Sophie Knight (spouse); Elsie (4)*

We joined St Columba’s in 2021 when our daughter Elsie was about six months old. I am currently an Usher and Lay Eucharistic Minister in Wee Worship, and a member of Fathers’ Group. We moved to DC from the UK in 2017, and in my previous life I have been involved in other parts of the Anglican communion: I served as a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales for six years, and in my last parish in the Church of England I was the Vice-Chair and Secretary of the PCC. At a key point of transition for St Columba’s, I would hope to bring my varied life and work experience to the Vestry if elected, in addition to my time in Wee Worship, which has given me a fresh perspective on church as Elsie’s dad.



Stephanie O’Keefe

*Occupation: CEO International Women's Forum
Family: Jody (27) and Keely (24)*

I have been an Episcopalian my entire life. Growing up in a small parish in West Virginia, the church was the centerpiece of our family’s life, and I was able to serve in many ways, from acolyte to altar guild to organist. We came to St. C’s for its children and youth programs nearly 20 years ago, and have cherished the community ever since. Over the years, I have taught Sunday school, volunteered for fundraising activities to support SCAP and pilgrimages, and now serve as a LEM. I believe it is an important, even pivotal time for St. C’s. There is much opportunity for our church to grow in its capacity to Live God’s Love, and I would be honored to serve as a part of the vestry as we continue to grow as a faith community.

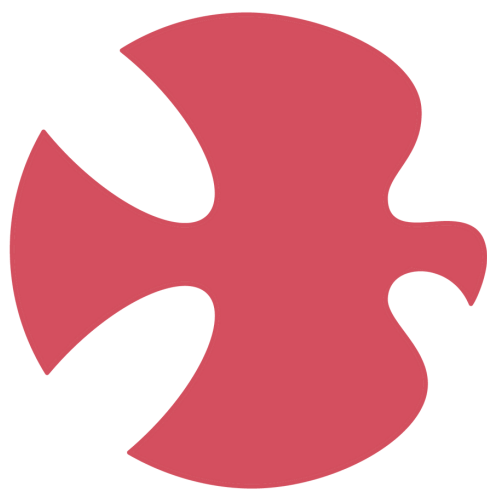


Farleigh Earhart

Occupation: In-house legal counsel for a non-profit museum and research organization

Family: Jeff Stensland and Lina Stensland

Church Experience: My family joined St. Columba's 15 years ago when we moved to Tenleytown, transferring from a small parish on Capitol Hill. I have been fortunate to deepen my faith and make lasting connections with others by teaching Sunday School and Rite 13, volunteering for the choir and youth ministries, and attending Wednesday night suppers and adult formation programs. I also have served on the Vestry Nominating Committee, am a member of the Environment Committee, and participate in Grate Patrol. I'm a life-long Episcopalian, and I'm honored to be invited to stand for the vestry. I hope to support the current strategic plan for improving our building and responsibly stewarding the Fletcher House site. I am excited about the possibilities that the Fund for Creating a Beloved Community will provide to our congregation to develop relationships with one another and with communities in need.



CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATES & ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Diocesan delegates represent St. Columba's at the annual diocesan convention, which brings together clergy and lay members from all 88 congregations under the Bishop's leadership each January to decide the diocesan budget, elect members of various diocesan bodies and vote on special resolutions. They are elected as alternates for one year, and then elected as full lay delegates for two additional years. St. Columba's has 5 Delegates. Delegate term is 2 years.

Alternate Delegates term is 1 year.



Charlotte Jackson

*Occupation: Data scientist in the Ads org at Meta
(formerly Facebook)*

Family: Susanna Bang (10) and Marian Bang (8)

I started bringing my girls to St Columba's in fall 2019, when they were 5 and 3. I was raised in a Baptist church and knew nothing about the Episcopal church, but the "fussy babies welcome" sign drew me in, and I'm so glad it did! St Columba's has been such a loving and welcoming spiritual home for all three of us. It's important for us to contribute to the community here, so I teach Sunday school, and the girls do choir and acolyting. I'd be honored to also represent the church as a diocesan delegate.



Kristin McNavage

Occupation: Teacher, Montgomery County Public Schools

Family: Ryan (Husband), Lindsay (23), Grant (20)

My family came to St. Columba's about 20 years ago in search of quality children's programs. We found it here at St. Columba's particularly through the Great Hall services and Wednesday night programming. Through this connection, we got involved quite a bit. I have participated in SCAP often, helped with Rebuilding Together for fifteen years, and served on various committees, such as the youth council.

As a career professional in K-12 education (29+ years), this is where my passion lies. I believe we need to continue to strengthen the youth programming at St. Columba's. I also feel strongly about promoting and encouraging a diverse congregation, one that aligns with the demographics of our neighborhood and city. Finally, my church experience has focused on outreach and living God's love. I am excited to serve as a diocesan delegate and to represent St. Columba's Church.



Stacy Notaras Murphy

Occupation: Psychotherapist specializing in trauma and couples work

Family: Scott, daughters Georgia, 16, and Sophie, 13

I am a life-long Episcopalian who spent my high school years leading many youth events in my home Diocese of Indianapolis. After 20 years spent at a smaller DC parish, my husband, Scott, and I started looking for a more robust youth program for our daughters in order to mirror some of the formative spiritual experiences I had in high school. We began attending St. C's in 2019 and have loved getting to know the community through the youth choir, mother's and father's group, and in various small groups since then. I co-led a "Love in the Time of Coronavirus" book study group for the parish during the summer of 2020 and am in my third year of serving on the Youth Council. I am particularly excited to serve as a delegate representing St. C's after attending many conventions as a Youth Delegate.



Karen Burgess

*Occupation: Retired Federal Government Lawyer
(SEC)*

Husband: John Burgess

Adult Children: Katharine and Sarah

John and I have been members of the church for over thirty years now. Our children grew up at St. C's and we all have been active in the church in a variety of ways. Over the years, I have volunteered in the Water

Ministry, at Sunday School, as a choir mom, as a member of a discernment committee, and currently am a team captain on the Altar Guild. In addition, I have previously served as Diocesan Delegate and Alternate Diocesan Delegate --about ten years ago.

Outside of church, I am a docent at the National Museum of Asian Art and regularly give tours on ancient Asian art to the public.



Sondra Mills

Occupation: Lawyer, formerly with U.S. Department of Justice and DC Attorney General's Office; currently semi-retired solo practitioner and legal consultant

Family: One grown son (Robert) and daughter-in-law (Katie), two grandchildren (Sophie and Teddy)

Church experience: My son and I began attending St. Columba's in 1996, when he was in middle school. We soon became very involved in youth activities and in the newly established STEP (St. Columba's/Truesdell Educational Partnership) program. Over the years, I have also served as a Lay Eucharistic minister and coordinator in the Good Shepherd's program and played the piano with St. Columba's wonderful musicians. I am especially grateful for participation in Sacred Ground, Stirring the Waters and the Anti-Racism Task Force. I am also thankful for the many positive responses to the research I have done into St. Columba's racial history and to the parish's commitment to becoming an anti-racist church. As an alternate delegate to the Diocesan Convention, I would seek to strengthen the parish's relationship with individuals, churches and communities through the diocese.



ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION

ELECTION FAQs

Who is qualified to vote?

The Bylaws state: A "qualified voter" is a person who is: (a) at least 15 years of age; (b) a communicant in good standing of the Episcopal Church, as defined in Title I, Canon 17, Sections 1-3, of the Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church; (c) a contributor of record to the Parish (which contributions may be cash offerings or services rendered to the Parish and known to the Treasurer); (d) recorded in the Parish register; and (e) who has, at the time of the Parish Meeting, met the foregoing requirements for a period of not less than one month.

When and how will voting done this year?

This year, voting will be conducted online beginning on November 1 and through paper balloting at St. Columba's on November 3 and 10. In order to vote online you must ensure that your email address is on record with St. Columba's in the online directory (Realm). All voting closes at 2pm on November 10.

Is my vote confidential?

Yes. Both online votes and paper ballot votes are confidential. There is no way to associate your name with your vote. Further, once votes are tallied, the voting records will be deleted or destroyed.

How does the change in the bylaws impact the election?

While in previous years, we had two more nominees for vestry than the number to be elected, the Nominating Committee now proposes no fewer than the number to be elected as Vestry members. This means that there are four nominees for Vestry and parishioners will elect four. In addition, this year, we have one nominee to fill the vacant term of a vestry member.

What do wardens and the vestry do?

They are the elected voice of the laity at St. Columba's. The vestry consists of the rector; a senior and junior warden (the primary elected lay leaders of the congregation, who preside at vestry meetings in the rector's absence), elected to one-year terms; and 12 members, who are elected to three-year terms.

The vestry determines how to allocate the resources of the parish, serves as the legal representative for the parish's corporate property and provides formal feedback to the rector and the clergy.

What do Diocesan delegates do?

Delegates represent St. Columba's at the annual diocesan convention, which brings together clergy and lay members from all 88 congregations under the Bishop's leadership to decide the diocesan budget, elect members of various diocesan bodies and vote on special resolutions. The delegates also represent the congregation in other key forums, such as the Regional Assemblies each fall, when the Bishop meets with clergy and delegates from each of the diocese's six regions. St. Columba's diocesan delegates serve as an alternate for one year and then, are elected to a two-year term as a delegate.

How are candidates chosen?

Candidates for vestry and diocesan delegate are chosen by the Nominating Committee, which is headed by two vestry members. Candidates for warden are chosen by the rector.