

**Information about  
Vestry Candidates,  
Diocesan Convention/  
Huron Valley Area  
Deanery  
Representatives**

**For election at the  
Annual Meeting**

**January 29, 2023**

Dear St. Andrew's Parishioners:

In preparation for the election at the annual meeting January 29, 2023, following the 10:00 service it is important that you become familiar with the candidates. The candidates standing for election to the Vestry and Diocesan Delegate/Huron Valley Area Deanery are:

**Vestry**

Sarah Baird  
Elizabeth Calhoun  
Jonathan Gardner  
Scott Gerstenberger  
Shirley Harden  
Kay Wade

**Diocesan Delegate/  
Huron Valley Area Deanery**

Elizabeth Halgren  
Philip Holt

**Continuing Vestry Members**

Class of 2024:

Lorraine Field  
Lisa Osbeck  
Chris Watson  
Bob Westveer

Class of 2025:

John Burhenn  
Claire McLaughlin  
Ann Scott  
Leslie Stainton

These candidates were asked to reflect and respond to the following:

Please tell us a little about yourself and family, work, or other volunteer work in which you have been involved, your journey of faith and how you ended up at St. Andrew's.

Reflecting on our Mission Statement (Witnessing to the Good News of God in Christ) how do your life experiences at St. Andrew's, other churches, and in the community at large, demonstrate your dedication to the various ministries of St. Andrew's? Please include special skills, areas of interest, and other information you think will help parishioners understand who you are and how you may contribute to our mission.

This booklet contains the responses from the candidates.

I would like to thank the members of the nominating committee for all their hard work:

Carol Bernard  
Catherine Carver  
David Hunsche  
David VanWagenen

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the nominating committee.

Lorraine Field  
Senior Warden  
Chair, Nominating Committee

## Sarah Baird Vestry Candidate

I live in Ann Arbor with husband Tom, daughter Sheridan, and stay occupied as a part time physical therapist, fitness instructor, and caregiver for several family members. In my personal and professional life I wear a lot of hats, which has given me insight into how people learn, age, cope, and communicate. My favorite work that I do is through my involvement with the Ann Arbor YMCA, where I teach classes like Exercise for New Moms and Pedaling for Parkinsons. Since 2000, I have been a periodic volunteer at The Breakfast at St. Andrews (preparing meals, serving guests, clean up, organizing donated clothing), a program which originally drew me to St. Andrews as a place of worship.

St. Andrews felt like home because of its social justice work and the openness in its worship style. Over the years I was confirmed at St. Andrews, married at St. Andrews, and had Sheridan baptized here. Tom was actually baptized here in 1966, as well. Tom and I were always sometime visitors, but became more involved when Sheridan joined the Cherub Choir in 2012. Through the choir we made some good friends in the church, and we value that community.

During the pandemic, my connection to St. Andrew's changed. Sheridan outgrew the choir, and services went online. While I continued serving at the Breakfast, I missed having involvement at the church. In the meantime I leaned into holding together my class communities at the YMCA, and learned the critical importance of building and maintaining community. I would love to bring some of that experience and energy to supporting those values in the St. Andrews community.



**Sarah Baird**

## Elizabeth Gray Calhoun

“Liz” Calhoun has been a member of St. Andrew’s since 2002 when she was received into the Episcopal Church. Liz grew up in Flint, Michigan and re-located to Ann Arbor in 1984 for grad school. She hired into the University of Michigan full-time in 1988 and is about to retire after 30+ years of UM employment in various capacities (calligrapher, conference organizer, library paraprofessional, etc.), the last 24 years at the Law Library.

Liz became a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Usher in 2009, then an Acolyte in 2010. While her vocation has been library-focused, her true interests are Medieval and Reformation history and especially the English Reformation and American Puritanism.

“I grew up in a liberal-minded family of ‘seekers.’ My mother’s family go back to Elizabethan-era Puritans, while my father’s family were original Methodists from the Scotch-Irish ‘hollers’ of West Virginia. I myself have found a home in the contemplative quiet of spoken liturgy of the 8am worship of St. Andrew’s.”



**Liz Calhoun**

## Jonathan Gardner Vestry Candidate

Hello, I'm Jonathan Gardner. My family includes my wife Melissa, and my three adult children: Noelle, Nataleigh, and Noah. Most of us have volunteered for The Breakfast, but also with various nature activities (invasive species removal, etc.). I currently work at Flagstar but am a board-certified music therapist and have worked primarily in hospice.

I grew up in the United Methodist church. I felt a call to ordained ministry in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and later attended seminary for three semesters at Boston University. There, I fell in love with "higher" liturgical forms and more progressive sociopolitical ideas which led me toward the Episcopal Church. Eventually, when I made up my mind to visit an Episcopal parish, I chose St. Andrew's and attended my first service here on Christmas Eve, 2001. Soon, I was coming regularly on Sundays and joined the choir.

I am a founding member of the Compline Choir. I serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and a very occasional acolyte. On occasion, I have been talked into performing with the St. Andrew's Players (Did I just put that in writing?).

I am passionate about the music and worship arts at St. Andrews. Music brought me here and it's where I have most significantly participated. I will always strive to glorify, educate, inspire, and comfort through music. I also have an interest in our stewardship of the natural world. I would be interested in exploring ways we can put that into practice through exploring and volunteering in our local and state parks.





Jonathan Gardner

## Scott Gerstenberger Vestry Candidate

I'm a retired engineer and software developer having worked at the University of Michigan in information technology. My wife is Liz Sweet, also retired from the University. We were married at St. Andrew's by the late Gordon Jones. We have two grown children, Dan and Sarah, and a 5-year-old granddaughter Grace.

I lived in Westchester County, NY as a child and started attending the Episcopal church as a child with my mother. Since then, I really have never not attended church except during the first few years of college when I was completely overwhelmed by school. My faith and the church mean a whole lot to me. The church is family to me, I really can't imagine living without it. I've been a member of St Andrew's for over 50 years.

At St. Andrew's, I've served on the vestry several times, on rector search committees, on the finance and stewardship committees, as a church school teacher, and as coordinator of the 10:00 acolytes. In the past I was a representative to the Diocesan Convention, a member of the Diocesan Council and President of the Standing Committee. At the national church level, I was elected twice as a Deputy of the General Convention and chair on one its committees.

Having watched this parish for a long time, I feel like we are at a very critical stage in our common life. The vestry (and all of us) will be challenged in number of ways over the next few years, especially in terms of adapting to new leadership, facing serious financial challenges, and incorporating younger leadership into our aging congregation.



**Scott Gerstenberger**

## Shirley Harden Vestry Candidate

My childhood life in Detroit was centered in my family's activities in a Disciples of Christ church. My passion for church music began there, as well as the recognition that being active in a church community was an essential part of my life.

During my career as a music educator and also a church musician, I was (without my knowing it) on the journey of becoming an Episcopalian, and I thank my daughters for leading me. My first Episcopal church was St. John's Plymouth where I led seven mission trips to the Dominican Republic and served on the Vestry twice.

I am deeply aware of the dedication and responsibility each of us has in not only paving the way for a new Rector, but also in discerning how to become the community God will help us to be.

I am a worshipper at the ten o'clock service. My activities include the adult handbell choir, working with the junior bell choir, being a Lector and Eucharistic Minister, playing piano for the family service, and in the last few years, joining the work of the Social Justice Ministry, a call that continually increases its challenge and urgency.

Gardening, reading, dancing, recorder playing, traveling, and parenting/grand parenting/ great-grand parenting give me great delight.



**Shirley Harden**

## Kay Wade Vestry Candidate

I am a life-long Episcopalian. My previous Episcopal church memberships include St. Matthews (before St. Joseph and St. Matthews combined), Grace Episcopal, St. Cyprian's all in Detroit. St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee. And in the 1970s, I became a member of St. Andrews Church.

Previously, I have taught Sunday school, and summer bible school and have been a liturgical dancer. After my husband died in 2015, Rev. Alan Gibson encouraged me to join the Altar Guild.

My entire working life has been in the field of education. After 49 years, I retired from Ann Arbor Public Schools as the district's Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator in 2019. The majority of my community service work has been done with organizations I am affiliated with in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti community. Through these organizations, we have made substantial life-changing contributions locally, regionally, and internationally. On a personal note, I was widowed after 46 years of marriage and have two adult sons, two daughters-in-law, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. My faith journey has been consistent and remains strong. It is my faith that helps me cope with life's challenges and it constantly reminds me of the many blessings in my life.

I attend St. Andrews Church's 8 am service. I am looking forward to meeting and serving those who attend the later services. Thank you for the opportunity to run for the vestry..



**Kay Wade**

**Liz Halgren**  
**Area Deanery/Convention Delegate**

Hello! My name is Liz Halgren. My husband Kyle and I have 3 children: Benjamin (10), Samuel (8), and Claire (1). I spend my days homeschooling my kids. I started attending St. Andrew's about 7 years ago when I had two little boys and Kyle and I were trying to find a faith community where we both felt comfortable. We felt at home at St. Andrew's—a place that was affirming to all who entered its doors while still maintaining a traditional sense of worship. I grew up Episcopalian but attended other churches during my high school and college days. When I had kids, I felt called back into our church and especially wanted to pass this faith tradition onto them. I participate in the bell choir and my boys are in the junior choirs. I have been a church school teacher for the past several years (though this year I am not teaching but sometimes provide the story in the Family Service). We attend the Family service and the 10:00 service.

I feel especially passionate about making church a place where all people, especially children, feel welcome and are met at their level so they can know about Jesus and the good news of the gospel. I love participating in the music ministry. St. Andrew's is an especially important part of our family's life and I am grateful to give of my time to our church.





**Elizabeth Halgren**

**Philip Holt**  
**Area Deanery/Convention Candidate**

1. I retired after a long career of teaching Classics at the University of Wyoming, plus some other schools before that. I won teaching awards from both my home campus and the national association in Classics. My experience includes various faculty committees and active membership in several churches, including a stint on a vestry way back and a period of being faculty advisor to the Canterbury House at Wyoming.

2. I converted to Christianity in college in 1968, bounced around with evangelicals for a while, but (God works in mysterious ways) ended up confirmed as an Episcopalian in 1971. I was drawn to the Episcopal Church because of its focus on eucharist, tradition, liturgy, and ritual (as distinguished from teaching). It's been a great fit for me, and I love being an Episcopalian. I also have maintained a pledge to my congregation since my conversion.

3. I transferred my letter to St. Andrew's five years ago, when I moved to Ann Arbor to be in a major-league college town. My main activity at St. Andrew's has been participation in the Thursday Bible study group. My knowledge of Greek and New Testament times is an asset there. I have also been active in some other Bible study groups and activities of the Social Justice Ministry..

4. Life experiences in Church: see above under item 2.

5. Besides Bible study, I am particularly a fan of the Breakfast and the Social Justice Ministry. Besides that, we have a great congregation with a lot of interesting serious believers.



**Philip Holt**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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