

**INFORMATION
ABOUT THE SLATE OF
NOMINEES FOR VESTRY
AND DIOCESAN
CONVENTION/HURON
VALLEY AREA DEANERY
REPRESENTATIVE**

**FOR ELECTION AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING**

JANUARY 25, 2026

Dear St. Andrew's Parishioners:

In preparation for the election at the annual meeting on January 25, 2026 following the 10:00 service, it is important that you become more familiar with the slate of candidates. The nominees to the Vestry and Diocesan Delegate/Huron Valley Area Deanery are:

Vestry

Kathryn Barnes
Diane Long
Dennis Powers
Norm Richert

**Diocesan Delegate/
Huron Valley Area
Deanery**

Luke Thompson

Continuing Vestry Members			
Pelham Barron	Jan 2027	Marty Gillen	Jan 2028
Shirley Harden	Jan 2027	Ian McCaul	Jan 2028
Lisa Osbeck	Jan 2027	Hallie Prescott	Jan 2028
Kevin Vander Tuig	Jan 2027	Jim Wortley	Jan 2028

The nominees were asked to reflect on their faith background, how they came to St. Andrew's, any ministries in which they have been involved, aspects of St. Andrew's they value, and general goals as a vestry member.

This booklet contains the responses from the nominees.

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

Sarah Baird
Shirley Harden
Scott Gerstenberger
Lorraine Field
Jeanie Mack-Powers

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the nominating committee.

Kay Wade
Senior Warden
Chair, Nominating Committee

KATHRYN BARNES VESTRY NOMINEE

My name is Kathryn Barnes, and I am a fifth generation Ann Arborite. I attended school in town starting at Haisley Elementary to Pioneer High and then on to the University of Michigan. For decades, I managed the office of a local cancer surgeon. When he retired, I decided to stay at home to raise my two sons, Blake and Kevin. On April 1st, 1989, I eloped with my High School sweetheart, Christopher, at St. Andrew's, it being the church he was confirmed in. I love road tripping, solving the Times puzzles, reading, taking a long walk, seeing the sunrise and talking to strangers. I volunteer regularly at Food Gatherers.

I grew up attending Bethlehem UCC, the generational church of my family. Our strong and close family attended church regularly, and faith was always present in our home. As the years went by and the old guard had passed on, I found a spiritual hole in my life. I will never forget the first Eucharist Service I attended at St. Andrew's in 2012. I was in deep need and from the moment I sat down in the pew (in the back), it seemed as if Jesus was sitting next to me, holding my hand. I found a new home! I remember fumbling through those first few services, how I slowly opened up, and began to participate in the life of the Church.

St. Andrew's has so much to offer. I am a member of the Bible Study, Outreach and Social Justice, Ushering, Lectors and Intercessors, Lay Eucharist, Funeral Reception, Book Club, Habitat for Humanity, Outdoor Walkers and Coventry Dinner Ministries.

I am honored to have been asked and look forward to serving St. Andrew's and the church as a Vestry Member. This church, the congregation, the music, the smiles, are just a few reasons why I want to jump in with both feet! I hope to help grow the small group ministries, outreach, and see our congregation continue to blossom and participate in this amazing community.



DIANE LONG VESTRY NOMINEE

Hello, my name is Diane E. Long. I am originally from California and grew up in a military family, which strongly influenced my path in life. That upbringing led me to enlist in the United States Air Force, where I proudly served for 20 years before retiring. My time in the military shaped my commitment to service, community, and faith.

While serving and after my retirement, I continued my education and earned a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management as well as an Associate's Degree in Industrial Systems Design while stationed in Minot, North Dakota. I currently work at the VA Hospital in Detroit, where I am grateful to continue serving others in a meaningful way.

I was born and raised Episcopalian, and my faith has always been an important foundation in my life. When I was young, my mother taught Sunday School, and watching her serve the church planted a passion in me as well. Later, when my own daughters were young, I had the joy of teaching Sunday School, and during that time I also served the church in many other ways — including serving on the Vestry, assisting as an Altar Guide, helping as a counter for monetary offerings, and welcoming parishioners as a greeter. These roles deepened my love for church life and strengthened my desire to serve wherever I am needed.

I am the proud mother of two adult daughters, Tiffany and Cheyenne, and an even prouder grandmother to two beautiful granddaughters, Chezni and Willow.

In 2007, I moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and not long after, I came across St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. From my very first visit, I remember feeling an immediate sense of warmth, love, and welcome. It truly felt like home, and that feeling of belonging encouraged me to stay and eventually become a member of the St. Andrew's community.

After joining St. Andrew's, I became involved in the Eucharistic Ministry, a role I truly enjoyed before the pandemic. I have always attended the 8:00 a.m. service and occasionally the 10:00 a.m. service, especially when my granddaughter joins me. One of

the aspects I value most about St. Andrew's and the Episcopal Church is the sense of genuine community, inclusiveness, and deep care for one another.

During the pandemic, I experienced the loss of a very dear friend to COVID. That loss deeply affected me and made it difficult for me to return to St. Andrew's for a time. During that period, I attended Trinity Episcopal Church; however, I never quite felt the same sense of welcome or belonging there.

Then, just before Easter 2025, Rev. Sally came to Trinity to fill in. In that moment, it felt like heaven opened up. After the service, Rev. Sally spoke with me, and her words lifted my heart and spirit in a way I truly needed. That encounter reminded me of everything I love about St. Andrew's and ultimately led me back home.

Outside of church and work, I enjoy taking cooking classes at Zingerman's, traveling, and spending time with my granddaughters. These moments bring me joy and help keep me grounded.

My dreams for St. Andrew's are to help the church continue to grow, to serve wherever I am needed, and to support and strengthen the ministries that care for both the congregation and the wider community. I value St. Andrew's commitment to faith, service, and compassion, and I look forward to being part of the work that helps our church continue to thrive and serve others.



DENNIS POWERS VESTRY NOMINEE

I was a regular at Canterbury House in the late 1970s when it was located just across Catherine Street from St. Andrew's. I felt drawn to the Episcopal Church by the music at St. Andrew's, as well as by Gordon Jones's preaching, but especially by the Breakfast Program. It was inspiring to see how effectively an intractable social issue like hunger can be addressed by committed Christian outreach. Andrew Foster was the Chaplain then. He worked with Svea Gray to facilitate an ability on the part of those who frequented Canterbury House to help with the Breakfast Program as their schedules allowed. At the same time, the warm and welcoming community that he sustained at Canterbury House nurtured us all as we matured in our faith and life goals.

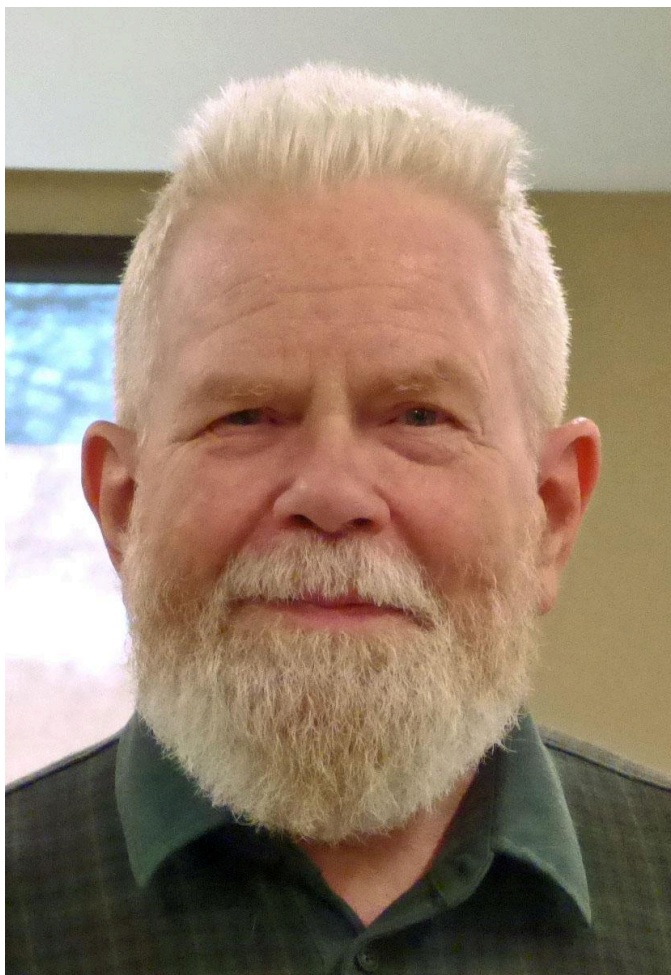
Jeanie and I were married at St. Andrew's in June of 1979 and shortly afterward moved to the Boston area. When we returned to Ann Arbor in the mid-1990s, we checked out several churches before coming home to St. Andrew's. The warmth, excellence in music and liturgy, and commitment to living out faith in service to the community, made us feel like we had never really left.

I served two terms on the vestry at Christ Church in Andover, Massachusetts, and was a member of the stewardship committee for 10 years. I was instrumental in Christ Church's establishment of its Legacy Loan Program, which set aside 10% of the parish's endowment to fund "seed money" loans at nominal interest to community groups who had a viable business plan but were unable to obtain conventional financing. We modeled this initiative on so-called micro lending programs. Our belief was that the parish could and should accept substantially below market rates of return on this tranche of its investment portfolio because, as a faith community, we had an obligation to help better the lives of those among whom we lived.

Here at St. Andrew's, I have authored anthem notes for the Sunday bulletin for more than ten years. I currently serve as an usher, a lay eucharistic minister, and a lay eucharistic visitor. In the past, Jeanie and I have volunteered for the Rotating Shelter. She is a member of the Episcopal Health Ministries Committee and serves as an usher and lector.

During my time in Massachusetts, I was a member of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Andover, 1982-1990, serving as vice-chair 1987-1990. I have served on the Board of Trustees of Canterbury House at the University of Michigan, 1998-2003; the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Center and International Residence in Ann Arbor, 1992-2004; and the Board of Directors of the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, 2006-2010.

I look forward to serving on the Vestry as it helps guide St. Andrew's into its second century of witness and service in Ann Arbor.



NORM RICHERT VESTRY NOMINEE

My family roots on both sides are Mennonite for hundreds of years, although I grew up in American Baptist churches. I was ready for a change while in graduate school and started attending an Episcopal Church in Pasadena, CA. I appreciated the liturgy, emphasis on the Eucharist, music, and general openness. I went to Wheaton College in Illinois as an undergraduate and to Claremont Graduate School in Southern California in mathematics. Between undergraduate and graduate school I did two years of alternative service in Syracuse, NY, at the tail-end of the Vietnam War. I was an academic mathematician before moving to Ann Arbor to work at Mathematical Reviews in 1999, just in time for the Y2K impact on databases. Who knew that years might require more than two digits? St. Andrew's was the first and only church I attended in Ann Arbor. I found it to be vibrant and welcoming. A fond memory is a conversation with Father Charles Witke at coffee hour early on---his warmth and interest in me made it clear I was in the right place. His example has been food for thought for me of how we interact with newcomers, drawing them into our church family.

At St. Andrew's I have been a Church School teacher and JtoA leader, being part of the team that led a Pilgrimage to NYC in 2008. In Church School I was introduced first-hand to the Breakfast Program, back when younger kids were able to serve and this was a regular part of the Middle School/Young adult experience. Many interesting questions were raised among the kids in that service. I was lured into the Theater Ministry by Nancy Heusel in a production of *Oliver!* in 2006. I met Lucy through theater at St. Andrew's and we were married here in 2011. I have been in the Choir for a number of years. I have served on the Vestry twice before and am currently the Treasurer for the Church, as well as for the Breakfast. Somewhere along the line, for reasons lost to history, I became the bell ringer to call the faithful to the 10:00 am service. Recently I created the Bell Ringer ministry to spread the work around. I have been a Lector, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Intercessor for many years.

With my Baptist heritage, I sometimes wondered about the role of theater in the Church, even while I was an enthusiastic participant in theater productions. Reflection helped me to see how central stories are to our faith. Even in our very academic Creed there are stories lurking. To learn to tell stories effectively is tied to receiving and processing

stories---making stories part of who we are. Nancy Heusel left St. Andrew's a powerful legacy in the theater ministry that she largely created. She serves as an example to me of how what we appreciate at St. Andrew's is the result of passionate people who believed that what they worked to accomplish was for the future, as well as the present. We are all the benefactors of people like Nancy who have been part of St. Andrew's for almost 200 years. I have tried to carry forward a bit of what she created.

I think we are in a very exciting time at St. Andrew's. COVID threw a curve for many institutions, including the church as a whole, and St. Andrew's in particular. The recovery has been slow. We are now seeing many new faces of all ages. The numbers of people involved and the giving levels are very strong right now. As we move closer to our anniversary year in 2027, I look forward to the projects that we will develop to honor the legacy of all those who have gone before us and created the church that means so much to us.



LUKE THOMPSON

AREA DEANERY/CONVENTION NOMINEE

My family has been parishioners at St. Andrew's for nearly 40 years. I was first brought to church at six weeks old. I grew up at St. Andrew's—attending Sunday School, confirmation classes, and participating in a Journey to Adulthood pilgrimage. As a teenager, I served on the Vestry during the COVID-19 pandemic as its youngest member. During that time, we strengthened church infrastructure, launched our YouTube channel, engaged in anti-racism work within our community, and sustained support for the Breakfast Program.

In our diocese, I completed the canonically required terms on Diocesan Council as a Bishop's appointee, having been appointed twice, once by Bishop Gibbs and once by Bishop Perry, again as the youngest member. In addition, I serve as an advisor to the Diocesan Youth Council, working closely with the Canon for Ministry with Young People, Carmen Piggens. Together, we equip young people to be advocates in their communities and introduce them to church governance as meaningful, necessary, and even joyful work in pursuit of justice. I currently serve as the Diocese of Michigan's representative to the Province V Executive Board, where I collaborate with leaders from ten Midwestern dioceses.

I was elected by our Diocesan Convention to serve as Deputy #1 to the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, and will return for the 82nd General Convention in July 2027. I was the youngest member of our deputation. Before Convention, I was appointed to the Social Justice and International Policy Committee, where I worked with deputies from across the Episcopal Church and around the world to craft and present resolutions. Over several months, our committee held hearings and received testimony from people directly impacted by these issues, Episcopalians worldwide, and international legal experts. The work was emotionally and spiritually demanding and was grounded in prayer. I helped write two resolutions and contributed to several others, and I was given the opportunity to address the House of Deputies, urging the Church to uphold our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." I am deeply grateful for the voice I am growing into and for the opportunity to advocate for those whose voices are too often unheard.

Academically, I am a Political Science major with a minor in History at Eastern Michigan University, with a strong interest in public policy, law, and the lessons history offers for shaping our shared future. My community service includes extensive involvement in student leadership, including three years as a Student Senator, service on university committees as a student representative to senior administrators, and advocacy in Lansing with both Republican and Democratic

legislators to support higher education funding. I have also mentored students from underserved communities, walking with them from their first year through graduation or until they found a different path forward.

My hope for St. Andrew's is that it continues to be a leader within our diocese and the wider community. There is strong and faithful work already underway, and I would love to see diocesan partnerships around shared initiatives. We have a solid foundation for young people, and I hope they will continue to be exposed to opportunities across the diocese and the wider Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's is truly a gem in the Diocese of Michigan, and I am proud to call it my home. Whenever I am asked where I worship, I am happy to say, St. Andrew's in Ann Arbor. May we continue to serve our neighbors and be a beacon of light in a hurting world.



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