
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Vestry Nominees

Every year at our Annual Meeting, we elect up to 6 new Vestry members: 4 full members for 3-year terms and 2 young adult members for 1-year terms (for those between ages 16 & 22).

This year's Annual meeting is Sunday, April 18 at 11:00 am.

Following is the slate of candidates (four regular members) submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Joshua Crockett

I was born and raised in Fort Washington, Maryland. After graduating from Bishop McNamara High School, I attended Howard University and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Legal in Communications and Culture with a concentration in Strategic and Legal Communications. After graduating in 2014, I accepted an offer to join Teach For America as an 8th grade ELA teacher. This exciting career opportunity is what brought me to Baltimore, more specifically, this career opportunity reconnected me with the life and legacy of my maternal great-grandfather, one of the first African American homeowners within the Edmondson Village neighborhood. While working as an 8th grade ELA teacher at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in Essex, Maryland, I graduated from the Johns Hopkins School of Education with a Masters of Education.

In July of 2016, I accepted a regional staff position at Teach For America Baltimore. As the Manager of Matriculation, I work with incoming corps members to ensure that they are prepared to serve students and families on their first day as Baltimore City Public Schools teachers. I am currently leading the onboarding process for my fifth cohort of new corps members. While working for TFA Baltimore during the day, I am an evening student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. I am planning to graduate at the end of the Spring 2021 semester.

I spent all of my childhood as a member of a local non-denominational church. Throughout grade school, I attended either a non-denominational Christian school or a Catholic school. This combination of academic rigor and faith-based education provided a solid academic and theological foundation for me as a young adult. When I moved to Baltimore, I found myself longing for a local church home that provided a new worship experience. For nearly two years, I visited several churches around Baltimore. My first encounter with the Episcopal Church was a series of YouTube videos featuring prominent Episcopal

Bishops. As I learned more about the Episcopal Church, it occurred to me that I drove past an Episcopal Church every day on the way home. With a bit of apprehension and nerves, I walked into my first 8:00 am service at St. Bartholomew's. I left with two profound takeaways. First, I knew that I had found my new church family. Second, I was prepared to make the adult decision of officially becoming a member of the Episcopal family. A few months later I enjoyed the transformational experience of being baptized in the presence of my newly established 8:00 am. St. B's family.

Since joining the St. B's family, I have always demonstrated a willingness to volunteer in several capacities. I would be honored to continue my service to St. B's family as a member of the Vestry.

Aleah Mohamed

I am a newish member of Saint Bartholomew's. My husband Henri and I started attending in 2019. I am currently involved with a masters program at Loyola, and studied communications and emerging technology at UMBC for undergrad. I served six years in the Air Force, love gardening, and take community seriously!

Serving on the Vestry is an honor and responsibility I'm willing to accept with guidance and accountability. I believe it will encourage me to grow as a leader, and hopefully strengthen my connection with Christ and his church.

Margaret Schotto

I was born in Akron, NY - outside of Buffalo on a self-supporting farm. I am the youngest of 5 but my mom was an emergency foster parent so we had a pretty consistent rotation of kids living with us. I grew up Roman Catholic and participated in youth group with the Free Methodist Church since there wasn't anything offered at my church. I was able to participate in a summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic to build a refugee camp while in

high school with the Free Methodist summer camp that I attended annually. Until 2009, as part of the Catholic churches we attended, I taught Sunday School, coordinated yearly donation drives, worked the food pantry, and helped out wherever the need was.

I have worked in student housing for different universities since 1991 which has taken me from Potsdam in upstate NY to Binghamton in the Southern Tier of NY to Durham New Hampshire to Frostburg Maryland and finally to the Baltimore area for the past 12 years where I work for a private management company with the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

It was while in Frostburg that my wife and I became part of the Episcopal Church and were received in 2009. We have twin sons who are almost 17 years old. Since moving to the Baltimore area, I've participated in the Prayer Walks for the victims of Gun Violence coordinated by Canon Slater and at my previous parish I have served, among many other things, on the Vestry, coordinated the food pantry, and taught religious education when we had children to participate. Our family joined St. Bartholomew's just over a year ago when we needed to find a new church home and Kathleen was familiar with St. B's from doing her internship here. I look forward to helping out by participating on the Vestry.

Steve Smallman

Mary and I came to Baltimore in 1992 to join the executive leadership team of New Song Community Church and New Song Urban Ministries, a community development program located in west Baltimore in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood. One of our ministries was Sandtown Habitat for Humanity and I'm told that there were some St. B's volunteers around during that era (mid-1990s) as part of an ongoing partnership with the Cathedral of the Incarnation. It was also during that time that I first met Michael Sarbanes, a young(er) attorney who helped our Habitat chapter with the acquisition of vacant homes to rehab and sell to community residents—interest free.

We remained involved with New Song for 28 years, living there in the Sandtown community for 13 of those years. I started an organization called New Song Arts, which used music training and performance

opportunities to teach life skills to community youth. During that time, I also served as Associate Pastor of the church and was responsible for the music ministry. In 2004, I transitioned New Song Arts to a successor and started a marketing and creative agency, Fifteen4.com, and that has been my full-time gig ever since. In 2005, Mary and I moved with our two boys into a home in the Ten Hills neighborhood, right around the corner from St. B's. Little did we know...

Feeling that God was on the move (again) in our lives, in 2018 we left New Song and I resigned as Associate Pastor. I petitioned my Presbytery (think Diocese) to divest me of my ordination with them and was released from that call a couple of months ago in a very amicable manner. (Why we left our socially, politically, and theologically conservative denomination is another story we'll happily tell over coffee—or whisky.)

Having grown up in the church (watch out—we're both pastor's kids), Mary and I are most comfortable when we're fully engaged with a local body of Christ. During the last couple of years we've had the opportunity to repent of "trying to do too much" and have found St. B's to be a wonderful, welcoming place to begin to decompress, listen to God, and learn from you folks what it means to apply the Gospel to our lives in new and exciting ways. At Pastor Flo's initial encouragement to "take it slow," I'm now very honored to have been asked to serve as part of the Vestry and feel ready to get to work should you elect me.

How great is it that we landed at St. Bartholomew's a couple of years ago: wonderfully diverse in so many ways, with a compassionate set of smart leaders, and just a 4-minute walk from our front door? As Pastor Flo might say, "Pretty cool, huh?" We are so blessed to be a part of you and will endeavor to humbly learn and carefully listen for ways we can help advance the mission.

Other biographical info: our two boys are both married and live in Chattanooga, TN. They've given us three wonderful grandkids and we get down to see them as often as we can. My business is in its 17th year and survived 2020 (barely). Thankfully, things seem to be back on track in 2021.