

Vestry Candidates – Class of 2019 - 2021

BelindaLea Barnhart

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

The sense of community is a big draw, it truly does feel like “family.”

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

I was a member of either/both the Senior and Jubilate Choirs for 20 plus years. I taught Sunday School, Children’s Choir, and have been the leader of St Paul’s Treasurer Keepers for 10 plus years. I also provided accounting services to both St Paul’s and the Center for Hope and Healing for a couple of years.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

I was the Music Director, chaperone for the Youth Group and Treasurer at my previous parish for about 10 years.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

Tough to say until I get in there and see what the priorities are and how I can help.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

CPA Day of Service, NCACPA, Institute of Management Consultants.

Tyrus Cohan

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

St. Paul’s has many ministries addressing a wide range of needs and interests. There is something for everyone to become active in the church. I find St. Paul’s to be a welcoming and inviting place to worship, meet new friends, and catch up with old ones.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

Currently I sing at the 9:00 service. My past involvement has included: teaching Sunday school, chairing the Youth Committee and the Volunteer Coordination Committee, and being a Eucharistic minister. My favorite involvement was being an adult leader for EYC on Sunday nights. Movies, lock-ins, games, and crafts were something I looked forward to.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

I served on the Vestry at Ascension in Hattiesburg and at St. Patrick’s in Long Beach, both in Mississippi. I was a member of the University Outreach Committee at Southern Miss in Hattiesburg tasked with building and maintaining a strong Episcopal presence on campus. I was also on a committee tasked with finding a suitable location to relocate St. Patrick’s in Long Beach.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

St. Paul’s is a place with numerous ministries and outreach activities. I would like that to

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continue and expand to include more members. Working towards our goal for the capital campaign, increasing pledge participation, and seeing our site plan come to fruition are all areas I would like to invest my time and energy.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

In the recent past I focused on career development. I am a member the North Carolina Arc User Group and the Geospatial Information Technology Association, both organizations offer networking opportunities, continuing education, and professional meetings and conferences for geographic information systems professionals.

Sarah J Collins

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

The inclusion and “Everyone is welcome.” There is so much to offer at St Paul’s, that everyone can find a niche somewhere if they wish to become involved.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

I serve on Altar Guild, I am on the Fellowship committee, Share and Care, and I lead the Mystery Book Club. I also read the lessons and Gospels that were recorded for the daily readings, and I have helped during the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival and Stop Hunger Now. I am also a member of the Women's Beach weekend group.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

At my former Church of St John's in Plymouth Michigan, I served on Altar Guild, I was a lector, the prayer chain, and headed up the Share and Care Committee there. I helped with Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. I was a member of the MOMS group and helped with the Christmas pageant.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

Welcome and encourage new members. The Capital Campaign to be priority. Encourage youth to be more verbal in the organization of the Church. During Communion and maybe more frequently have Jubilarty music.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

I am a member of our Community Garden Club, and Social Committee. I organized a neighborhood bunco group and am on a group from my previous neighborhood. I am on the British Ladies Around Raleigh group, and WAVE (Women's Association of Verizon Employees) where we have partnered up with the Health and Wellness team for supporting the Walk against Domestic Violence, and Dress for Success.

Sara Concini

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

St. Paul’s is a community where all are encouraged to engage either inside or outside of the

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parish to transform our church and our world. Also, all are welcome to join activities and ministries that match or stretch one's strengths. Additionally, the caring and support given via the Care-N-Share ministry stands out to me as the unsung heroes of our parish life.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

Co-leader, St. Paul's 20's & 30's ministry (2007-2011), Fellowship Committee (2008-2010), MOMS participant, facilitator and ministry member (2015-present), CHH counselor, VBS volunteer, Children's Ministry committee (2015-2018), Sunday School teacher (current), Lobster Fest volunteer.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

I was raised in the Lutheran church and I am proud to say that I served as the first youth representative to our church council (like vestry) as a senior in High School. It was an honor to be part of the governing body of the church at that young age. I served as youth helper for VBS, Sunday School and active participant in Youth Group.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

I would like to make sure that young & school age families continue to be supported and find St. Paul's to continue to be a place where the parents and their children feel excited to take part.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

I have served in various leadership roles (Treasurer, President, Conference Chair, etc) since 2007 in the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers (NCACE), a professional group, which partners career services professionals with HR professionals that hire college students. Additionally, I hold a License as a Professional Counselor (LPC) via the NC Board of LPCs.

Andrea Johnson

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

I love that All Are Welcome at St. Paul's. On my first visit, I saw diversity in the clergy and the congregation and I knew St. Paul's would be a great new church home for me and it has continued to be in many ways.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

I am the lead facilitator for Rainbow Gathering (2013 to present) and People of All Colors and Coming Together (PACCT 2014 - to the present). I volunteered with the Lobsterfest Food Bank Drive for a few years. I have also been on the committee that led the Seeing the Face of God seminar at St. Paul's as well as co-facilitated conversations on race and diversity via a book

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club that has been held over the past 18 months. I am a member of the Adult Formation Committee and often assist with the hospitality on Sundays. When I first came to St. Paul's I was an active member of the Library Committee.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

At my former church St. John's Cathedral, I served as an acolyte, I was active with the youth group and also enjoyed the role of youth leader for a short period. I was also an active member of the Episcopal church of Guatemala where I volunteered at the free clinics offered at the church.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

During my 3 years of service on the Vestry I would like to see us work on more welcoming and inclusive spaces and programs for all regardless of age, race, nationality, sexual orientation and physical abilities.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

When I am not at St. Paul's I enjoy being outdoors, so I spend time on the local greenways, and love to explore the many trails and parks in North Carolina. On occasion I also assist Spanish speakers at enrollment events.

Frank Laney

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

It open, friendly acceptance of all, and it striving to reach out into the community to show that open-heartedness to those that do not come to our doors.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

I currently co-chair the Welcoming in Christ Capital Campaign with Rick Bradley, co-chair with my wife of the Newcomer Ministry, I am an usher, lector, am on the Compensation Committee, on the Giving Board, on the Endowment Board, past vestry member, have been on the Ministry Leaders Resource Committee,

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

Deacon, Sunday School teacher – adults and youth, Trustee, sang in the choir, college department leader, outreach to School for the Blind,

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

Complete the Capital Campaign and work with the vestry and parish to complete the renovations, improvements and maintenance funded by our campaign

Increase outreach to grow our membership

Pay down the mortgage more aggressively to free up funds for ministries

Improve and increase communication between the various ministries to aid coordination

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What community groups and events are you involved in?

I am an Asst Scoutmaster with Troop 207 in Raleigh, I sing with the NC Master Chorale, I am very active in volunteer professional organizations – I am a long term ex-officio member of the NC Dispute Resolution Commission, past chair and on the board of the NC Bar Association dispute Resolution Section, I travel to Belarus every year to teach mediation to various groups and at several universities,

Christa Magee

What do you like best about St. Paul's?

St. Paul's is the epitome of "coming home." Charlotte Grace was 6 months old when I moved my membership to St. Paul's in Cary in 2007. My sister-in-law, Barb, said this was the place to be. I started volunteering at VBS in 2007 and 11 years later I have worked for the preschool from 2009-2016 and children's ministries 2013-2018. I recently transitioned to a fulltime job and sadly had to give up my work with children's ministries. I took the summer off to visit family on the weekends and slept in a time or two. Then it was time to "come home" at Lobster Fest. I volunteered all day and saw almost everyone I had hoped to. It was all hugs and "I haven't seen you in a while," I was truly touched. I love the feeling of family and when you have been gone for whatever reason; when you come back...you are "coming home." That is what is special about St. Paul's to me!

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

I volunteered for VBS, Care and Share, taught Sunday School, taught Preschool and was the Children's Ministries Assistant. I have volunteered with the Children's Choir and I am a member of MOM's. I am looking forward to finding my next venture.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

That would be my childhood church, St. Paul's in Winston-Salem, NC. I was brought up in the Episcopal Church. We had Sunday school, were acolytes, my Dad was 30 yr. on the Vestry and taught confirmation classes, even mine. We had "Choir of all Ages" where the whole family gathered for a meal then separated into our assigned choirs. I was an Acolyte and loved our youth group. I enjoy going back and seeing the wonderful growth of the church and it's always great to old friends.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

I feel there is so much talent in our parish, I would be excited to see St. Paul's try and recognize these talents and engage parishioners to focus on the talents they have, and we can join them with others for the good of the church. We have such a diverse enriched membership. We have parishioners who have wonderful talents but may not recognize them yet ☺ I feel we can all come together for the common good!

What community groups and events are you involved in?

I am working for Gibbons Family Medicine (UNCPN), soon to be UNC Family Medicine at Kildaire. We are involved in 5K's, we just participated in the East vs. West Festival in Morrisville. We are always looking to get involved with local activities.
