



Spiritual Leadership

Serving on the Vestry of
St. John's Episcopal Church



The Candidates for Vestry Class of 2027

VESTRY MEMBERS offer their leadership to serve the mission of the congregation — “to strive to bring all into a closer relationship with God and one another through Jesus Christ.” Vestry members serve the entire congregation rather than represent one specific ministry. They also continue to serve in the ministries of the parish, practice sound stewardship, and support our Bishop and Diocesan ministries.

The Vestry includes the Rector, who serves as the presiding officer, and an elected group of parish members. Together, this group is the legal governing and decision making body of a parish with regard to most matters pertaining to the church and its operations. As the presiding officer, the Rector only votes on matters when there is a tie among the other Vestry members.

Vestry duties include approving the budget, making policies and supporting the mission of the congregation through spiritual leadership. At large churches, such as St. John's, this includes strategic planning and oversight. Operational decisions are left to the Rector, staff, and commissions. The strategic work of the Vestry, in collaboration with the Rector, includes identifying goals, opportunities, and challenges; creating a strategic vision; monitoring steps toward implementing the vision; overseeing financial health and progress; developing leadership in commissions and committees; and communicating with the parish.

EXPECTATIONS OF A VESTRY MEMBER:

- Attend worship regularly
- Attend parish events
- Pledge proportionally, moving toward the tithe
- Attend Vestry meetings
- Arrive at meetings prepared
- Minister collaboratively with the Rector and other Vestry leaders
- Serve the whole congregation
- Show commitment to the Church as a community of God's people called to ministry
- Pray

The four nominees for the Vestry Class of 2027, outlined in this brochure, are offering their spiritual leadership for St. John's.



SUSAN FEDORS

Years at St. John's: 20

Service regularly attended: Historic Church— 11:00 a.m.

Involvement at St. John's:

Often found in the choir loft, I am involved in music and worship as an Adult Choir member, coordinator for the Instrumental Ensemble, and a lector. I value St. John's commitment toward spiritually meaningful, varied, and inclusive worship experiences that bring us closer to God and to one another. Previously, I worked on the Music Director Search Committee, and the Rector Search Committee. I am also involved in the Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Ministry, serving as a mentor to newcomer family members as they navigate education and job opportunities and assist with other needs that arise. I have participated in and supported a variety of Outreach events, including Collington Square baskets, the Children's Home, the annual Rummage Sale, and the Social Justice Backpack Ministry. Other activities have included being a Volunteer Coordinator for Alda's Memorial Garden, a prayer partner for Walking the Mourner's Path, organizing last year's Mental Health First Aid training, and attending Korean Ministry events. When my sons were young, I volunteered for and supported many Rite 13, J2A, and Discovery Weekend activities.

Outside Church:

I worked as a Russian language analyst for DOD in my first career and later taught English as a Second Language in the public school system and community college. I was also a Career Navigator for immigrants in the English Language Center at HCC until my recent retirement. I lived and worked abroad and have an interest in other cultures.

Vision for St. John's and interests that would be pursued if elected to the Vestry:

My vision for St. John's is to further develop its mission as a welcoming and caring church doing Gods' work in the local community and beyond. I would like to involve more members in the many ministries of the Church. I am also a proponent of proportional giving and the responsible management and growth of our resources (human, natural and financial) that the church has been entrusted with.



DAVID HALE

Years at St. John's: 10

Service regularly attended: All Saints Hall — 9:00 a.m.

Involvement at St. John's:

I have just last year completed two terms – six years – on the Board of Trustees for the St Johns Parish Day School. While on the Board I chaired the COVID Task Force Committee coordinating the School's response to COVID, both short and long-term. Less formally, I've participated in campus clean-ups, Discovery Weekends, Children's Faith Formation, and various church events, most often in support of our youth programs.

Outside of Church:

I am a lawyer by training, with experience in privacy, information security, intellectual property, and corporate law. I also have experience in risk management and marketing. Beyond law, I'm an amateur woodworker.

Vision for St. John's and interests that would be pursued if elected to the Vestry:

St. John's Church, like the Parish Day School several years ago, is at a critical juncture as it decides on its path to the future. I believe St Johns should be a welcoming place to all, especially those who may have historically found themselves less welcome. More tangibly, a renewed focus on rebuilding our Youth and Children's programs should be a priority to ensure the long-term relevancy and vitality of the church. St. Johns should continue its outreach to its surrounding community and enhance its place as a bedrock of the Ellicott City / Howard County community.



KIM KERRY

Years at St. John's: 22

Service regularly attended: All Saints Hall— 9:00 a.m.; and Historic Church— 11:00 a.m.

Involvement at St John's:

I was active in St. John's Sunday school and youth programs for 15 years, including serving as a Sunday school and VBS teacher, Breakfast Club and Rite 13 leader, and Discovery Weekend worship team chair. I started a Mother's Ministry program, launched the acolyte program in ASH, and organized the parish Shrine Mont retreat weekend for several years. I've served as a eucharistic minister, worked with the Route 1 Homeless ministry in its early days, and designed the church's former newsletter (the Godsibb). I've also benefitted from the church's adult faith formation offerings, including the EfM program. I am currently a Stream Team member and Newcomers' Dinners host.

Outside of Church:

I am a communicator. I've worked for decades as a writer, editor and marketing professional in both the public and private sector, including roles with the Associated Press, the Maryland State Department of Education, and Pearson. About a year ago, I listened to my heart and God and accepted a position with Impact Finance, an organization committed to alleviating poverty by bringing financial resources and education to people in some of the most challenging places in the world.

Vision for St. John's and interests that would be pursued if elected to the Vestry:

I arrived at St. John's more than 20 years ago, a little overwhelmed by its hugeness and not sure how our family would find our way. I discovered a warm, welcoming community with abundant opportunities for spiritual growth, communion, service, and friendship. I want nothing more than for future generations to have the same kind of experience when they walk through our doors. St. John's is at an exciting juncture. As we begin the search for a new rector and wrestle with the realities of stretched resources, I think it will be important for us to work together to identify priorities and a solid sense of what we want our future to look like. It will also be important to continue the important work of re-engaging our community, attracting new members, and being intentional about creating and fostering an environment that is welcoming for all of God's people.



JANET LOUGHRAN

Years at St. John's: 8

Service regularly attended: Historic Church — 11:00 a.m.

Involvement at St. John's:

I serve as a vergers and a lector, and have participated in special events such as the historic tours of St. John's; the service at St. John's in March 2023 for the election of the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Maryland; and the ordination of the Rev. Ann Ritonia as Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries in September 2023.

Outside of Church:

Since October 2005, I have been a member of the President/CEO's Office at Columbia Association (CA). I have worked with five Presidents, numerous Boards of Directors, and am a member of CA's senior leadership team. My current position is Assistant for Board Operations, in which I act as the administrator for CA's Board of Directors meetings. As part of CA's community activities, I served in the past as an ambassador for the Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

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JANET LOUGHRAN (CONTINUED)

Vision for St. John's and interests that would be pursued if elected to the Vestry:

St. John's is a blessing for people searching for a church home, and those wishing to find, explore, and deepen their faith. To further this work, I am interested in:

- The search and on-boarding of a new rector. I am currently participating in my fourth search for a new President/CEO for CA, and am very familiar with the wide variety of activities and time commitment required in such an undertaking.
 - Continuing to assist in worship as a vergers and a lector, both at the Historic Church and ASH; and
 - Learning more about Pastoral Care and Outreach.
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SUN., MAY 5TH
All Saints Hall



COMBINED WORSHIP
9:00 AM
.....
ANNUAL MEETING
10:00 AM

*All are invited to celebrate this past year
and our annual awards winners.*

*Voting-eligible members will elect new
Vestry members, Lay Delegates to the
2024 Diocesan Convention, and vote on
amended By-Laws. Additional nominees
may be submitted until April 21, 2024 to
VestryNominations@stjohnsec.org.*