

Biographical Sketches of Nominees 2012 Annual Meeting Elections

Candidates for Vestry

Doug Draper

I'm Doug Draper. I've been attending St. Martin's for three years now, and I was confirmed in the church in June, 2010.

My wife, Terry, and I have been married for eighteen months, though we've known each other since high school. I have three kids: a daughter in senior high, a son in junior high and a son in elementary school. I'm also bonus-dad to Terry's two girls: Alex and Kelly.

My Christian life began in the spring of 1989. I started attending church with my sister at McKinney Memorial Bible Church in Fort Worth. Later, my family and I were members at Bear Creek Bible Church in Keller. At Bear Creek, I was involved in the music ministry. While at McKinney, I went on two short-term mission trips, and I was a part of the divorce recovery ministry.

I've worked for an architectural/engineering consulting company for over ten years. I graduated from Texas A & M University in 1997 with a degree in construction. Presently, I'm working towards a master's degree in civil engineering at UTA. In my spare time, I've taken up taekwondo.

Aubrey Hardman

I was born and raised in [Lubbock, Texas](#) and baptized into the covenant of Jesus Christ at St. Paul's-On-The-Plains Episcopal Church of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas where I was raised in the Anglican tradition under the guidance and stewardship of the Rev. Harold Clinehens, Jr. and Rev. William Jarvi and Bishops the Right Rev. Sam Hulse and the Right Rev. C. Wallis Ohl. I attended Texas Tech University (TTU) in Lubbock where I met my beautiful wife Ashley and earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in English/Philosophy and Master of Arts and Sciences (MA) in Technical Communications in 2001 and 2003, respectively. During this time, I worked for the TTU Canterbury Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas assisting the Rev. David Krause in ministering to TTU students. Upon earning my MA, I accepted a position as an Aircraft Maintenance Support Engineer (Technical Writer) at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company (LM Aero) in Fort Worth, Texas. After transitioning from Aircraft Maintenance Support Engineering to Finance at LM Aero, I was selected by the Executive Leadership Council to enter the Lockheed Martin 2008 Financial Leadership Development Program (FLDP) during which I earned a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington in May 2010. Shortly after moving to Fort Worth, Ashley and I decided to start a family and quickly began searching for a traditional worship community. After years of attending different Episcopal and Methodist churches across Fort Worth, we found a warm welcome and a home at St. Martin in the Fields where we had our daughter, Alivia, baptized under the Rev. Frank Reeves. My family and I have been very blessed with St. Martin over the past year and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our fellow parishioners. Unlike many of the other Episcopal Parishes in Fort Worth, St. Martin has a young community which is very welcoming to young families such as mine. I believe this is an asset that our Church can leverage to grow its congregation. Since the Alliance area is growing so rapidly and St. Martin is the closest Episcopal Parish to this area, we have a wonderful opportunity to reach out to a growing community. I am running for the Vestry for an opportunity to help St. Martin, where I am needed, to reach out to and welcome more young families to our church community.

Joe Panther

My name is Joe Panther and I'm running for vestry. I served one term on the vestry from 2006 to 2009. I'm still serving as an acolyte as I have for the last several years and I believe this will be my

fifth year on a “Green team”. I still work with Boy Scout Troop 937 which is chartered through Saint Martin’s. My wife Diana is the treasure and our children Scott and Kim were baptized at Saint Martin’s in 1999, both are in college now. In closing I feel I’m ready to serve our parish as a vestry member again. Thank you.

Brian West

Dr. Brian A. West was born and raised in the Episcopal Church. Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, he moved to Fort Worth in 2001 and joined Saint Martin in the Fields. He has served on the Vestry for one term, the Newcomers Committee, the Greeting Committee, been a Crew Leader and Station Leader for VBS every summer for the past eight years, regularly serves in the nursery, and has taught in the Christian Education program ever since he arrived at SMITF. Currently, Brian is a leader in the new high school program J2A.

Brian is the Division Chair and Coordinator of Percussion at Texas Christian University. Internationally he has conducted at the Sydney Opera House, performed at the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. He is an active composer/arranger, clinician, and adjudicator for both concert and marching events. Brian is the Executive Producer of three CDs, is published by Drop Six Media, and works as a clinician/endorser for Yamaha, Innovative Percussion, Remo, and Sabian. As the Percussion Artistic Director for the International Festival of Bands and Percussion Ensembles, Brian coordinates percussion ensembles for performances at various international locations (Australia 2011, England and France 2012).

Candidates for Delegate to *Diocesan Convention*

Phyllis Bess

“The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” is a statement that I am passionate about. I was baptized in 1956 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church (Wilmington, DE). My dad, who was the rector, performed the baptism and introduced me to Episcopalianism. My passion for this denomination and its message of love and inclusiveness are core to my life.

Bob, Christopher and I arrived at St. Martin’s in 1983. In great Episcopalian style, we were lovingly welcomed into this church family. We have both volunteered here in a variety of ministries over the years. This is our home and you all are the family with whom we continue to share life’s journey.

As the diocesan political scene deteriorated and strayed from anything remotely resembling an Episcopal diocese, my involvement in diocesan affairs, other than welcoming our bishop to St. Martin’s for his visit each year, waned accordingly. The dawn of the new day in the diocese of Fort Worth has this sinner eagerly seeking the opportunity to serve as a convention delegate.

I have been married to Bob for 35 years. With the wonderful assistance of the “village of SMITF”, Chris (30) and Katy (25) were successfully raised. We attend a variety of church services — I am often the one dressed in black and carrying a stick.

Richard Cabes

Five years ago, when Corrie and I were searching for an Episcopal parish, St. Martin’s was the only church that felt like home. I have continued to build a spiritual home here as a licensed Lay Eucharistic Minister/Visitor, serving as Worship Leader on Sundays and bringing Eucharist to those who cannot make it to church. I have served three years on the Vestry and was appointed the liaison to St. Martin’s Academy to assist in church/school business. In addition, I coordinate the assignment of LEVs to visitees on a weekly basis. I am now hoping to expand my ministry to St. Martin’s as a

delegate to the 2012 Diocesan Convention in Stephenville. I have come to know several members of our fellow diocesan parishes through my involvement in Church Leadership workshops in Fort Worth, through coordinating the annual Bishop's picnic in 2011, and through the St. Martin's-hosted diocesan meeting this past summer. I have put my heart into this parish because I am excited about the huge potential we have in our youth, our growing congregation and our leadership role in the eastern Deanery and greater diocese. I would be honored to join my fellow delegates as a representative of St. Martin's with your vote.

Lisa Neilson

My name is Lisa Neilson and I have been a member of St. Martin's for 14 years. I am a cradle Episcopalian, grew up and was confirmed in Colorado. I have also been a member of Episcopal congregations in Syracuse, NY (where I graduated from Syracuse University); Hinesville, GA; Ft. Hood and Copperas Cove, TX; Ft. Meade, MD; and Palatine, IL before coming to St. Martin's. I have been married to Bob for 23 years and our children have grown up at St. Martin's. Our son Ian is involved in Sr. High EYC and our daughter Heather is a college student and works as the SMITF Nursery Supervisor. Heather is also raising our grandson Caleb (9 months) at St. Martin's.

I have been involved with many ministries here at St. Martin's. Currently I enjoy serving as a Worship Leader, as an Acolyte and as Lay Liturgical Ministry Guild Warden. This year I am finishing my second term on the vestry and a year as Senior Warden. I have served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention for 6 years and I have served 3 years as Eastern Deanery Lay Representative to the Diocesan Executive Council. This is an exciting time in the life of our diocese and I look forward to being involved at the diocesan level.

Becky Snell

I grew up in Colorado enjoying ranching and horses with my father, and spent several summers working in eastern Colorado at my Grandmother's orchard and strawberry patch. I have always loved outdoors and have found God close to me when in nature. As a young child we had a Baptist Church a block away and I walked to Sunday school and felt welcome and cared for in that little church learning Bible verses. We moved and were close to a Lutheran Church that I attended multiple Vacation Bible Schools. Sundays I attended a Methodist Church that my mother liked that was biking distance from our home. As a teenager I became very involved with the youth group. It had a large following in the community with numerous outings that I remember fondly and experiences that allowed some magnificent spiritual growth. The numerous adults involved in the youth group at the Methodist church challenged me spiritually to grow. A political ruckus between the pastor and youth pastor caused another denominational change, when I followed the youth pastor and his staff to the Presbyterian Church a few blocks away when I was in high school. During college I would often assist the leaders with the high school and middle school youth programs and found the challenge of teaching and leading studies quite rewarding.

I attended a variety of other churches through my young adult years as I moved, attending what was close and learning about what others thought and more about my journey of learning about God. When Tom Bolerjack and I started dating when we were in the Air Force and stationed in Las Vegas, we went church shopping. This was a very interesting experience in "sin city" and the different types of worship in the military. We decided that the Episcopal Church was for us and attended a variety of Episcopal parishes as we moved about in the military. When Tom retired from the Air Force in 1997, we found SMITF and knew it was home for us and our two young sons. We have all grown in our spiritual life and been nurtured at SMITF.

I have served on many different groups at SMITF from the Christ Child Guild to the Green Team. I am currently serving my first year on the Vestry and I have attended the last two (2) Fort Worth Diocesan Conventions as a spectator. I appreciate the amount of reading and studying the delegates

do to prepare for the convention. I am seeking to serve as a delegate from SMITF to the next Fort Worth Diocesan Convention 2012. I seek to bring the voice and vote of our congregation to this convention with the love of God first and the love and care for his people our neighbors second. Thank you for your consideration. *Becky Snell (Bolerjack)*

Joel Walker

Born into a Methodist family in northern New Jersey some 60 plus years ago, I was introduced to the Episcopal Church in 1962. I served part time as a professional Episcopalian (employed by the Episcopal Church Pension Fund) while attending college and earning a degree in mathematics. I married a cradle Episcopalian in 1967 during a 2 year stint in the U.S. Army. Six years and two daughters later, the entire family moved to Fort Worth where we attended St. Christopher's, and I was confirmed as a member of the Episcopal community. In 1991 we moved our membership to St. Martin's.

Over the years since, my service to St. Martin's has been with the Men's Group, a special shopper and cook for events around St. Martin's, an extra hand when there was painting etc. to be done, three terms on the Vestry, and several years as a delegate to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention. More recently, I have been serving the Diocese as a lay member of the Commission on Ministry, and have one more year in my current term there.