

2016 Vestry Nominees

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

James Bedell

A cradle Episcopalian, I was baptized at birth and became an acolyte when I was about 9 years old. The church has always been a major part of my life.

Upon graduation from high school I attended and graduated from William Jewel College with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and minors in Psychology and Music.

My career began with Macy's Midwest division for ten years as Store Operations Manager, dealing with staffing, budgeting and expense control. My next position was with Malan Management Company as an Area Shopping Center Manager for 23 strip shopping centers in Kansas, Missouri and Southern Illinois. Once again I was responsible for budgeting and expense control and added maintenance and lease compliance for each of these properties. After 3 years I joined Kravco Company. I worked as General Manager of a 2,000,000 square foot mall. There, in addition to normal duties, I added a second level to the mall and was responsible for the construction and daily activities of the 1,600 construction workers.

My adult church life started at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. In the late 1970's I was honored to be part of the process of proof reading for the "new" text of The Hymnal 1982, primarily dealing with theological emphasis. Later in the process I participated in workshops pertaining to "The marriage of text and tunes." After the green light was given to the hymnal, I held a few seminars to help introduce some of the new hymns to the parish. Moving to Denver, CO, I transferred my membership to St. John's Cathedral. While there, for a few years I participated on the subcommittee to the Liturgical Commission working on pairing hymn texts to the Lectionary. I then became an acolyte and chalice minister for approximately 10 years. At St. Martin's I am an usher, greeter, chalice bearer and director for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

My career experience coupled with my church experiences are varied in nature. I would be honored to use my background as a member of the vestry and will work hard to move our church into the future while maintaining our traditions of the past.

Linda Snow

I was born and raised in Jackson, MI and was baptized in the Methodist church as an infant. I attended college there and received my nursing degree. I married Carl Snow, Jr. in 1966, have two children, and two grandchildren. We moved to Texas to be close to them.

I have been in nursing for 40 years working in emergency department, surgery, home health, a discharge planner in an acute brain and spinal cord injury rehab department, and finally as an administrator of an assisted living center. I am now retired.

We moved to Florida in 1981 and attended the Methodist Church there for many years. In 1999 we visited & then joined St. Barnabas Episcopal church in DeLand, FL and in 2000 we were confirmed at the Cathedral in Orlando. I joined the Daughters of the King in 2004, was a Lay Eucharist Visitor for many years and was on the vestry at St. Barnabas.

Here at St. Martin's I attend the Wednesday morning Bible study, Education for Ministry, the Outreach Committee, and the Communications Committee, which has led me to volunteer to continue the history and archives of our church. In addition, I am the head of our chapter of the Daughters of the King.

I have been an alternate to the 2015 diocesan Convention, and would like to be a delegate this year. I am also a representative from our deanery to the Executive Council for the diocese.

I would like to represent you on the vestry as our church grows and expands, to help spread Christ's kingdom and to be a service to our church.

Nancy Wieden



I am a lifetime Episcopalian. I grew up in Houston and at St. Martin's, Houston, where my mother was instrumental in the founding of the church.

After graduation from the University of New Mexico, I moved to Dallas and became deeply involved with the Church of the Transfiguration. As a member of the vestry I was active in outreach programs working with the homeless while raising three boys and holding down a job in the construction industry.

In later years, I spent a brief time worshiping in the Roman tradition before returning to my roots as an Episcopalian. I had been active at St. Stephen's in Beaumont and St. Cyprian's in Lufkin before coming to St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

My interests include working with outreach programs, parish management and overall parish life. I have the time needed to devote to a position on the vestry and would also like to be considered to be a delegate for the diocesan Convention.

Kathy Wilkinson



I am a wife, mother, Nana to two very special grandkids, and a certified Laughter Yoga leader and teacher.

I have been blessed with many opportunities in my life. I was in a leadership position in bringing a Ten Thousand Villages (a not for profit retail store) to Ann Arbor, MI. This has increased my awareness of the extreme importance of fair trade. I remain committed to the mission of buying products that allow for a fair living wage for producers in our world community.

The benefits of Laughter Yoga are vast. Laughter is free, knows no bounds and is just plain fun. I am thankful to have this opportunity to share Laughter Yoga with senior citizens, health care professionals, volunteers, support groups and others.

Since arriving at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, I have joined the efforts of Grow the Church, Sisters of the Spirit, Labyrinth and the Radical Hospitality Ministries. In addition, I have assumed the leadership of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the vestry. Thank you.

Joel Walker

Born into a Methodist family in northern New Jersey more than half a century ago, I was introduced to the Episcopal Church in 1962. I earned a degree in mathematics in 1966, and then spent two years in the U.S. Army.

Five years and two daughters later, the family moved to Fort Worth where we attended St. Christopher's where I was confirmed as a member of the Episcopal community. In 1991 we found St. Martin's, which has been our church home ever since.

Over the years, my service to St. Martin's has been as a special shopper and cook for events around the church and an extra hand whenever there was work to be done in the parish or in the community. I served as Green Team coordinator for a number of years, and have served on the vestry for a total of 11 years to date. In addition I have worked with the committee for the Festival in the Fields program and have been both an alternate and a delegate to the deanery and diocesan Convention since before the reorganization of the diocese.

After the year off the vestry required by church canons, I am ready to again join the vestry if elected, and am also hoping to continue to serve St. Martin's in the future as a delegate to the deanery and the diocesan Convention.