

# Meet the Candidates!

## Bob Stecher

My name is Bob Stecher. My wife Deb and I have lived in Canton GA., for the past 12 years. We were married in St. Martin in the Fields in Atlanta before moving to Rome, GA. While in Rome, I was received into the Episcopal church. I began my service in the Episcopal church while at St. Peters in youth ministry and working on the only men's breakfast team. We moved a few times and landed in Naperville, IL in 1989 where we attended St. John's Episcopal Church. Deb and I served as Youth ministers for our first few years there and I started the men's breakfast ministry.

I began my vestry career at St John's. I was on vestry 3 times and held positions of Jr. and Sr. Warden on each of those vestry terms. My Sr. Warden position was extended for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year through all three of my vestry assignments, one of which was for transition and Rector search and another for building campaign.

We moved to Canton in 2008 and began attending St. Aidan's immediately. Deb and I were youth ministers for the junior high students until a "Youth Minister" was hired. I was on a men's breakfast team, served as a verger, lector and Eucharistic minister. I returned to vestry life and was asked in my second year to serve as Sr. Warden. Our rector was looking for a new parish and he knew I had been through a search before. I again served as Sr. Warden for a second term through the rector search. After vestry I was asked to be treasurer temporarily as our previous treasurer had left. I left St. Aidan's November of 2017. I began attending St. David's in February of 2018 and am currently serving as a verger.

I believe people serve for all types of reasons. I serve because I believe I have an ability to look at problems and find different ways to solve them. I don't accept solutions that have not been thought through. I am solution oriented and with my background in the church I believe I have much to offer St. David's.

Some quick background information. I worked for Freightliner Corporation for 17 years. I became a Personal Chef after corporate life and owned a restaurant in Naperville. I was a realtor for the last leg of my work life and recently retired.





## Cory McCallum

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for The Vestry in this year's elections. It is an honor to have been nominated.

I am the Chief Operating Officer for SunTrust Investment Services, SunTrust Advisory Services and BB&T Securities (Truist Bank subsidiaries). I have been married to my wife, Pattie, for 21 years and we have two children, Katie (18) and William (15). We have been members of St. David's since 2011 when we relocated to Dunwoody from Nashville. We primarily attend the 9am service. Our children have benefited from our children's ministry and acolyte program. I grew up attending St. Aidan's Episcopal in Virginia Beach and was an active member of the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC). I have served as part of the St Mathias Guild (Endowment Committee), Men's group, usher team and participate in the Bethany room Sunday school group. William and I have participated in Scouts since first grade as a Tiger Cub. We enjoy participating in the monthly scouts' hiking trip.

The St. David's community has enriched my life in many ways. I want to support our church during this transitional time as part of the Vestry. This is an opportunity for me to share my business knowledge with our church as a member of your vestry.

## Linda Puckett

**Linda Puckett** serves on the Finance Committee, Protocol Ministry Committee, and chairs the Wedding Guild at St. David's. Recently she developed a new Lay Employee Handbook for St. David's staff. Linda retired from serving 13 years as Vice President at the Episcopal Church Pension Group.

She continues to serve on the faculty for CREDO seven-day conferences for clergy, which focuses on wellness and education in the areas of finance, vocation, health and spirituality. She has served in numerous capacities in the Episcopal Church at the local, diocesan and national level.

Linda has conducted conferences and seminars on church finance, clergy taxes, employee benefits, and planning for retirement in all 50 states. Prior to joining the Church Pension Group, she served as Director of Finance and Administration at the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta for 10 years. She originally joined St. David's in 1982 and had previously served in many



capacities which included Senior Warden and President of the Episcopal Church Women.

While attending St. Aidan's in Milton for a few years, she served as Treasurer of the church and preschool. Linda has two daughters, Juliana Cibulski and Melanie Ellis-Powers, who grew up at St. David's and serve with her on the Wedding Guild. Linda said, "I believe my commitment and talents will be beneficial as we strive to be faithful stewards of God's grace in the upcoming year as we transition to a new rector and face the challenges ahead due to the pandemic."

## Karen Burpo



I confess to being a Cradle Episcopalian and a Texan. Our family has been members at St. David's since moving to Alpharetta in 1995—and I reflect that it is because of Invitation/Encouragement/Inclusion—hallmarks of St. David's welcoming attitude.

I am blessed to be a wife, mother, grandmother, breast cancer survivor, Master Gardener, and most recently, a retiree. After a career in Information Technology in the corporate world, I turned my focus to the non-profit arena, which provided more of a sense of ministry and purpose. I have recently retired from a wonderful non-profit, TurningPoint Breast Cancer Rehabilitation, where I worked for 8 years as Community Outreach and Development Manager.

I am honored to be invited to participate in the election of St. David's vestry. I can say that in all 25 years here, St. David's has been a constant and important part of our lives and I treasure relationships that have grown from shared experiences at this church. My love story with St. David's has developed through involvement in these dimensions of parish life:

**Worship:** Verger since 2002, LEM/Intercessor 1996-present, Flower Guild Holiday Helper, currently singing in the Virtual Choir.

**Formation:** Participant in Ken Swanson's Spiritual Direction (as student and later Small Group Leader), Women's Bible Study, Rector's Forum, Women's Retreat for several years (regular participant, small group leader and speaker), Serendipity group leader

**Organizational/Service:** Search Committee thru Parish Profile phase 1999-2001, Strategic Planning committee - Vision Elements, Vestry 2005-2007

**Ministry:** Founding Editor of Advent Meditation booklet, Stephen Minister, Assisted Children's Ministry, Unidad Kitchen Ministry

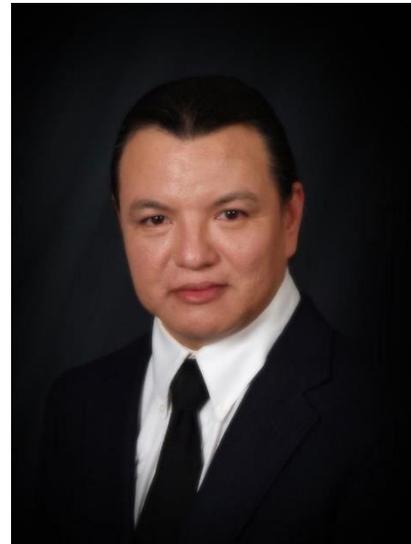
My spiritual life has grown and been fed by my involvement with St. David's activities and programs. Learning that spiritual growth is an on-going process and not a destination has encouraged me to stay connected to this church and my fellow parishioners. Serving on the vestry is a way I can give back to the Christian community that is so important to me.

## Arturo Rodriguez

Arturo Rodriguez has been a representative to the vestry from the Hispanic Congregation for the past year. In this capacity he has had voice but no vote. Arturo has been a member of St. David's for four years and owns and operates the Magic Touch Salon on Grimes Bridge Road.

As part of the Hispanic congregation, Arturo is part of the executive committee for the Hispanic congregation and serves as a Lay Reader, a member of the altar guild and before the cessation of in-person services lead the usher team. For this past year he has served as acolyte and lay reader for the recorded Hispanic services. He completed the Theology course offered in Spanish at the cathedral and previously has done religious studies in Mexico and leads a weekly bible study group.

As to why he would like to serve on the vestry he says "By serving I hope to contribute to the spiritual growth of St. David's through service to the church and by sharing information across the congregations."



## Jim Landers



I have been a parishioner at St. David's Episcopal Church since 1988. You will often see me in the Nave, though I rarely sit in a pew, because I serve in the parish's vergers' guild, as a lay reader, lay eucharistic minister and usher. Every other month, you will see me in the kitchen making scrambled eggs and raisin toast.

Earlier in my time at St. David's, I served on the Vestry from 2007 to 2009, including a year as Senior Warden. Following that term, I served as Parish Treasurer from 2010 to 2012. Over the years, I have also stepped in when asked to serve in capacities such as Interim Rector Search Committee,

Endowment Fund Board and translator for the Hispanic Ministry.

In the Diocese of Atlanta, I served a term as a lay delegate to Diocese Council, and today I sit on the Board of the Vergers' Guild of the Diocese of Atlanta. In this capacity, I serve as training director and I also serve as a verger at Diocese events such as Annual Council and Ministry Fairs. My wife Ellen and I live in Virginia-Highland, and we have two adult children who live in Atlanta and Charlotte. John and Katie grew up at St. David's and have wonderful memories of VBS and Sunday School at St. David's. I work as a financial analyst and since graduate school have worked for three companies in Atlanta. Today I work in corporate finance for an oil and gas company headquartered in Atlanta, a position I have held for 19 years. I am a Life Member of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

The liturgy and philosophy of the Episcopal Church are a source of inspiration and comfort to me. Beyond that, my Christian faith, which is imperfect and immature (though growing!), is not a *belief* but a *fact*. The "fact" component of my faith is a profound part of my life and the mystery of the Risen Christ has been revealed to me during my life in this parish. This is the core reason for my love of St. David's Episcopal Church and my continued desire to serve the parish.

I appreciate the Vestry's request that I stand for election and I would be honored to once again serve on the Vestry if it is the choice of the parish.

## Karen Wright

After moving to Roswell for a new job, I entered St. David's in May of 1975. I was newly widowed with three sons 4, 7, and 9. Life took me outside the doors of St. David's until 2014, when I returned.

I. Primary career: Design, develop and implement mainframe computer systems in manufacturing and international finance.

II. Church Activities Outside St. David's

- Choir
- Lutheran Synod and Diocesan Council
- Director of Christian Education and Pastoral Care
- Pastor call committees
- Clergy discernment committees



- Sursum Corda, a two-year Spiritual Direction Program
- Two Year Educational Program at Duke with the Diocese of North Carolina
- Semester of CPE with Tri Hospital CPE, Atlanta GA, assigned to St. Joseph Hospital
- 12 years as a Volunteer Hospital Chaplain

## II. Activities at St. David's

- Stephen Minister
- Choir
- Healing Ministry
- Eucharistic Minister
- Lay Reader
- Contemplative Prayer Group
- Common Purpose Planning Committee
- Co-Leader Eucharistic Visitor
- Drake House Representative

My career taught me how to condense complex information into significant points. My 12 years as a hospital chaplain brought me many amazing experiences including the importance of listening to others. I have a passion to share the Love of Christ. I believe I would be a good Vestry member and pledge that I would put all the necessary effort into the position if elected

## Peter Toy



Having grown up in New York City, I went to college at UNC Chapel Hill where I met my wife, of forty-eight plus years, Jeanne Thomasson. We moved to Atlanta in 1980. Anticipating the birth of our first child I starting attending St. David's (in what is now the Old Parish Hall) in the Spring of 1984 as my wife, Jeanne, was already a communicant. With the exception of a round-trip-corporate transfer to Hartford CT and back, we have been at St David's ever since, where we raised our children, Caroline and Geoffrey. I was received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Allen in March 1989.

I am now retired after a career in the commercial property and casualty insurance industry, having spent thirty-two years with Munich Reinsurance America in underwriting and management positions.

Retirement has allowed me to take advantage of the many programs and opportunities for learning and volunteering offered at St. David's, starting with the Education for Ministry (EfM) Program (graduated in 2011) and Ken Swanson's course in spiritual formation class. Until the shutdown caused by the COVID virus I served on a number of

committees and outreach programs. I miss working at the North Fulton Community Charities food bank; the St. Francis Guild (Thursday morning Taco Ministry); the usher team; the Guild of St. Joseph of Arimathea; co-Chair of the church library; team teaching the Disciple course for four years; and as a delegate to the Diocesan Council in 2010 and 2019. My prayer discipline has been strengthened by participating in a Centering Prayer group at Ignatius House and as an Ecumenical Lay Cistercian at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit.

After thirty-two years at St. David's, it is an honor to be nominated to run for the vestry. There have been a lot of changes over the past thirty-six years and I look forward to confronting the challenges to come.

## Carolyn Powers

St. David's is a wonderful place to worship, learn, and to serve. Currently I do the bookkeeping for the Preschool, assist the financial secretary, study with an EfM (Education for Ministry) alumni group, pray with a contemplative prayer group, participate with an awesome Covenant group, assist worship as lector and intercessor, and take part in several Sunday School and Common Purpose opportunities.

In the past I was happy to host a Women's Bible Study in my home, head up the Honduras Mission ministry, lead adult education classes, mentor at Homestretch, and teach ESL in Unidad. The spiritual direction class taught by Ken Swanson and EfM helped to shape my spiritual life.

Dan and I have been married 25 years. I am so thankful for his support and encouragement. We relish time with family, including Dan's three children and 12-year-old grandson, and with friends, enjoying fellowship opportunities such as Foyers Groups. We are often energized by the Outdoor Ministry, being inspired by God's beautiful creation. St David's has helped me to grow, and thus I feel it is time to give back in new ways.

I believe that I can bring to the Vestry organizational, administrative, technical, and teamwork experience based on many years in Corporate America and various other organizations.

I started my career with Arthur Andersen's consulting division (now called Accenture), and later moved to Atlanta to become the Director of Application Development for Oxford Industries. I directed numerous large computer system's projects, as well as developing business strategies.



Since retiring, I have been self-employed with a part time bookkeeping business and have been actively involved with East Cobb Quilters' Guild.

I hope to help others know about the many opportunities available at St David's. Together we are stronger ambassadors for God. I also look forward to helping with the selection of a new rector, bringing a broad perspective having served in several denominations.

## Kyle Watz



I've been a member of St. David's since 2018. My incredible wife, Grace, and I have two stellar kids, Darby (3 years old) and Eloise (1 year old). My son and I were baptized at St. David's on the same day in May of 2018. My daughter was also baptized at St. David's last year. Prior to COVID, our family attended services regularly at 9:00 a.m. I'm a member of a covenant group, have completed Ken's Spiritual Direction class, and have participated in Financial Peace University here at St. David's.

I have over a decade of leadership experience in technology, operations, supply chain, and procurement. I am currently a director at a tech company where I lead a team focused on information security, software implementation, and infrastructure management. I have owned several budgets throughout my career, negotiated hundreds of contracts, and presented to potential investors and company board members. I've successfully worked with people from many different backgrounds from around the world.

We came to St. David's for the first time in 2017 for a Christmas Eve service. As soon as my wife and I got in the car at the end of the service, we knew we found a home. St. David's has given me so much, and serving as a Vestry member is a way I can use my skills and passions to give back to the church and the congregation. It would be a privilege to help St. David's move into its next great chapter.

**Vote Here!**

[Click here to vote online!](#)

[Click here to print ballot!](#)

---

