

Vestry Candidates – Class of 2023 - 2025

John Armstrong

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

There are many things, but I suppose the most important element is the many ways that the Church puts its teaching into practice. Parishioners live their faith and they do it with humility (and humor).

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

I am an usher and an active member of the R4R Committee. I also participate in the Racial Equity sessions.

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

As a former Catholic, I was a lector, religious instructor and chair of the Board of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Camden, NJ.

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

I suppose I would like to see more efforts to solicit new members and also active outreach to those members who because of health or other reasons may feel isolated or alienated.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

As a relatively new member to the community, much of my time has been taken up mentoring two Afghan families. I have also been involved in my community organization.

Brad Hirschy

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

No matter where you are in your life and your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Paul's.

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

Currently on Finance Committee (Chair), Endowment Committee, Men's Group, ASP support (chore days, occasional trips), Usher team, Lawn Maintenance team, Memorial Garden chore days.

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

It's been limited involvement due to a job that required weekly travel. Since I've been "off the road" I've been growing my involvement at St Paul's and hope to continue to serve where I can.

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

Continue the momentum coming out of the pandemic and grow the number of families coming to St. Paul's. This feeds all the great ministries and programs that help St Paul's change the world.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

Work trips to the local Triangle food banks. I've served on HOA committees and Alumni Society events for my alma mater.

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Vickie Johnson

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

The caring and family feel and the fact that all are welcome. St. Paul's is a family that truly cares for each other and the community around them. They celebrate with you, worry with you and at times cry with you. I know I am never alone; in time of need, all I have to do is reach out and I feel love and support and often loving arms around me.

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

- Women's Beach Week organizational team
- Coordinator of inside activities for Lobster Fest
- LobstaFest Team
- Member of the Fellowship Events Team
- Co-coordinated the Welcome Back Evening on Oct. 8
- Cursillo and active member of a Cursillo reunion group.

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

My husband and I have been members of St. Paul's since 1995 so it has been a very long time since I have been involved with a former church, but when attending St. Paul's in Greenville, my husband and I lead the teenage youth group for a year before moving to Cary. With that said, we also lived in Northern Ireland in 2010 and 2020/21. During our time there, we were active participants at Ballymore Parish in Tandragee, Northern Ireland. I was involved in the Mother's Union group and during the pandemic we were involved in any small way we could especially supporting the Food Bank drives.

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

The pandemic has hurt a lot of churches. We are very fortunate at St. Paul's to have had the technical expertise to continue through this time. The rebuilding has started and hopefully will continue to grow. Not being privy to what has been on the Vestry's agenda since we left for Northern Ireland in Feb. 2020 and during the pandemic, I am not sure what the major issues are but feel I can contribute in moving things ahead. I am an organizer, planner and not afraid of hard work. I am also retiring in March and will have time to commit to any task that I am asked and capable of doing.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

Unfortunately, I have not been very involved in community groups or events outside of St. Paul's. I have a very demanding position and outside of coordinating the inside events of LobsterFest (which started in May/June) did not have much time otherwise. I am retiring the end of March, so I will have the time to focus on the vestry and hopefully be able to discern where I can be of service in the community. There are so many unmet needs that I am sure I will be led in the right direction.

Karen Smith

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

I value the idea that St. Paul's is a welcoming community. Ever since we started attending St. Paul's in 1999, we were encouraged to engage in the worship and ministry activities. Over the years, we have watched the parish grow both in size, as well as congregational diversity. St. Paul's is a leader in social justice, community activism, outreach, and education, just to name a few. The fellowship events held throughout the year bring parishioners together to develop deep personal and spiritual relationships.

The Preschool, Lobster Fest, and the Arts and Crafts Fair are examples of how St. Paul's is well known in the wider community.

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

I have been a member of many ministries over the years, including Julian Gathering, Refuge for Refugees, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Prayer Stitchers, Cursillo Reunion Group, Newcomer Ministry, and Women's Beach Week. I have supported and participated in the activities of Care and Share, Adult Formation, Episcopal Farmworkers, St. Nicholas, Food Security Action Group, and Lobster Fest. I have also been a Lay Delegate at several Diocesan Conventions, including the election of the new Bishop in 2017.

I have been honored to serve as the leader (or co-leader) for Stewardship, Greeters, and Ministry Leadership Resource Community.

I have served on St. Paul's Vestry from 2001-2002 and 2017-2020.

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

When we attended Christ Church in Alexandria, VA, I was the leader of the "Our Little Roses" outreach ministry for abused and abandoned girls in Honduras, the Christ Child Project (similar to St. Nicholas), and the annual family weekend at Shrine Mont. I was also the leader of the Lay Eucharist Ministers.

In Yorktown, VA we attended Grace Church, where I was involved in many ministries including Daughters of the King (DOK), Alter Guild and as leader of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers. I also served on the Vestry from 2008-2010, and a one-year extension in 2011.

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

St. Paul's will be going through a lot of changes in the next 3 years. Leadership changes are anticipated that will impact the clergy and staff. I would like to be a part of that evolution. I would like to help strengthen the financial stability of St. Paul's and we continue to grow our mission and ministries. As COVID protocols are moderated, ministries that have taken a hiatus will be able to reignite and come back with renewed enthusiasm and new members. The vestry can play a supporting role in that process.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

I volunteer at Dorcas Ministries every week. I help coordinate community events in my Saratoga Park Neighborhood. Before COVID I was a volunteer at Davis Drive Elementary School.