

VESTRY CANDIDATES 2009



Steve Barber



Geoff Ellis



Jesus Garcia



Lori Morris



Lynn Nicholas



David Reed

Vestry Candidates 2009

Name: Steve Barber

Number of years at St. Paul's:

18+

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable):

Spouse: Jenni Barber

Children: Shaelyn (12); Kelsey (9)

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience:

Born to mostly inactive Methodist parents, my mother would occasionally take us to a Presbyterian Church, as there were no Methodist churches in Brigham City at the time. My future wife, herself raised in an LDS household, and I, began attending St. Paul's as it was the closest church to the apartment building we both lived in, and while neither of us were overly religious, we wanted to be married in a church.

My immersion into Episcopal life has been an evolutionary process. Having not been raised within it, I am constantly learning about why we do things the way we do, or why we say the things we say, and the deeper meanings behind those things. The more I learn, the more it seems to resonate within me. Through our marriage, the baptism of our children, and our confirmation, I have come to fully appreciate the decision we made to become members of St. Paul's and thoroughly enjoy comparing and contrasting our experiences with those of other faiths.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish?

Currently I am a Reader and Lay Eucharist Minister at the 10:00am Sunday service.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Lay Eucharist Minister and also my time serving as a member of the preschool oversight committee, so I would have to say worship and finance.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry?

I believe myself to be a calm, level-headed, and logical person. I can see the merits of other's ideas and opinions, and not take them personally if they are contrary to my own.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's?

My dreams for St. Paul's are that it continues to grow, while remaining the caring and accepting community that my family and I have enjoyed through the years. I would like to see it continue with its community outreach programs and to exhibit compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Name: Geoff Ellis

Number of years at St. Paul's: 11 years

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable): NA

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience: Although I grew up in Ogden, Utah, I was raised Episcopalian, a religious tradition in my family that extends back to a great-grandfather in Alabama. After living in California, northern Utah, and various other places, I moved to Salt Lake City in 1998, where I started attending St. Paul's.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish? I currently sing in the choir, as I have done for most of my years at St. Paul's. Also, having been the landscape architect for the church renovation in 2001-02, I am still involved in the maintenance and beautification of our grounds and serve as the supervisor of the Lay Weeders garden program.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish? My main areas of interest are worship, especially the music program, and the care of our buildings and grounds.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry? I have some experience in church governance, having served on the Vestry here from 2001 to 2003, and I have the perspective of more than a decade of membership at St. Paul's, having experienced two rectors, an interim rector, and a huge renovation project that expanded our facilities and brought many new faces into our congregation. It would be my honor to help guide the church in an intelligent, reasonable, and prayerful manner.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's? I first went to St. Paul's because it was the closest Episcopal church to where I lived, but what kept me attending was our beautiful building and traditional liturgy and the friendliness of the people here. I believe that we have some wonderful strengths and would like to see us build upon them, continuing to be a vibrant and active congregation, with a meaningful spiritual life, operating on a solid financial footing, and participating in well-run outreach programs such as the Pantry and Housing Ministry.

Name: Jesus Francisco Garcia

Number of years at St. Paul's: 6 months

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable):

N/A

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience:

As a teen, I was raised in a private Christian boarding school for six years and was an active member of the Roman Catholic Church throughout much my adulthood. At one point, I stopped practicing Roman Catholicism, but maintained my Christian faith.

I began researching the Episcopal Church last year after being downsized from my professional position in Chicago and dealing with the death of my mother. I was undergoing a profoundly difficult time and relocated to Salt Lake City. Several months ago, I started attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I was able to find comfort and solace at St. Paul's while grappling with deep psychic and spiritual questions that led me back to regular church attendance.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish?

I intend to identify an area of greater need where I can make a personal contribution to the life of the parish.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)?

As a former housing professional specializing in making housing opportunities available for minorities and seniors, I'm strongly considering lending my skills and expertise in that arena. Conversely, I would also explore special projects or activities benefiting the church or resolving governance issues.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry?

I have had substantive experience as Chicago civic leader for over fifteen years as a founding and board member of the Chicago Area Runners Association, Viva Chicago Festival, Latino Arts Coalition, Mexican Civic Society and community advisor to the Chicago 2016 Olympics Committee. I'm a seasoned fundraiser, project manager, grants writer, developer, marketing, corporate outreach and could contribute to your growth process.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's?

Assist with any and all efforts to collaborate with existing business and corporate sector to create a greater presence in greater Salt Lake City in promoting St. Paul's activities as well as partner with groups to enhance membership activities that corresponds with changing demographic and ethnic patterns.

Name: Lori Morris

Number of years at St. Paul's: about 12 to 13 years (I think)

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable):

I have one son, Christopher age 30 and one daughter, Tiffany age 21.

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience:

I was baptized and confirmed at The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd in Ogden, Utah. After graduating high school, I attended church sometimes on Christmas Eve and maybe on Easter. I returned to regular church attendance with Tiffany, my daughter, when she was about eight years old. I am blessed to be an Episcopalian and proud of our church and the manner in which the Episcopal Church demonstrates God's love on earth.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish? I am currently a member of the Welcoming Ministry Team and also the Parish R&R Ministry Team. I would consider myself active in the life of this parish, and the people and programs of this parish important to me.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.) Everything that is important to Saint Paul's is an area of interest to me.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry? I think the strength I would bring to the Vestry is my sincere love for this parish and my belief in God and how grateful I am to serve in any way I am able.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's? I would want Saint Paul's to continue to be welcoming to all, to grow in its ability to serve the community, to be a place where future generations will learn about God and experience the joy and pride of being a member of this parish.

Name: Lynn Nicholas

Number of years at St. Paul's: I became a member of St. Paul's in 1992 during which time I was a member of the Vestry and for three years coordinated the Rector's Forum. I later transferred my membership to All Saints. I returned to St. Paul's in 2007 and am very impressed with the changes made during my absence.

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable):

I am married to Dr. Wallace Graham who is a member of the First Unitarian Church. I have three children: Donald Maffly of Portland; Brian Maffly of Salt Lake City; and Elizabeth Lovell of Bend, Oregon. Of my five grandchildren, Aryana Maffly is a baptized member of St. Paul's and loves Sunday School, communion, the peace and coffee hour.

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience:

I was raised in the Presbyterian Church. I joined St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Berkeley over thirty-five years ago and have been an Episcopalian ever since.

Since my return to St. Paul's, I have been seeking ways to more fully participate in parish life. That is why I am a candidate for the Vestry. I have recently joined the flower guild, am a member of St. Paul's book club, and assist with the advent dinner. I am currently serving on the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.) I am most interested in the worship service, the music program, the preschool, and paths for spiritual development.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry? I practiced law for twenty-nine years, am now retired, and I hope that my professional experience would be of help to the Vestry.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's? St. Paul's is so wonderful that it is hard to think of ways to make it better. I would like, however, to see more opportunities for individual spiritual growth, such as retreats, Taize chants incorporated into perhaps one service, and laying on of hands for healing in the Sunday, 10:00 a.m. service.

Name: David L. Reed

Number of years at St. Paul's: 14

Spouse/partner's name and names/ages of children (if applicable):

Partner: Kevin L. Alberts

Children: David W Reed (38) who lives in Austin, TX

John W Reed (34) who is married to Deana. They live in El Centro, CA.
John and Deana have given me two lovely granddaughters- Jasmine and Joana. Grandson Luke is due in January 2009.

Please share a little about your religious background and Episcopal experience:

I was raised in a Southern Baptist minister's home, so I spent much time in church as a child. I continued participating in the Baptist church after my marriage, but the Southern Baptist Church became more conservative and I became more liberal over the years. Eventually, my ex-wife and I left the church when I was in my mid-30s. During my hiatus from church, I attended Christmas Eve services at Episcopal churches some years and was attracted to the church through the beautiful liturgy and music. I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1991 and in the intervening years have come to appreciate the "three legged stool" image of the church: scripture, tradition, and reason. I find the inclusive theology and the Church's social justice positions to be in keeping with my understanding of Jesus' teachings and ministry.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish?

First of all, I participate in a Sunday Eucharist (usually 10 a.m.) almost every week.

I am a lay reader, chalice bearer, lay Eucharistic visitor, and I am one of the Evening Prayer leaders.

I chair the Parish Discernment Committee, participate in the Benedictine group, and I am a member of the Adult Education Committee.

I volunteer in the Parish Food Pantry, serve sandwiches at the Salvation Army on St. Paul's night, and am one of the gift shop hosts.

Additionally, I serve the Diocese as a member of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. I previously served on the Vestry from 2000-2002 and co-chaired the most recent Rector Search Committee.

I am also a choir alumnus and was on the Preschool Committee in my early years at St. Paul's.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)?

Spiritual development – I want us to support the spiritual development of all our parishioners- children through adult.

Outreach and social justice - this is one of the areas that St. Paul's and the Episcopal Church in Utah do well, but there is always room for improvement.

Recognizing and expanding the ministry of the laity.

Worship.

Finance

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry?

In my secular career, I problem solve on teams on a regular basis.

I care about each person's point of view and am a good listener.

I have been at St. Paul's long enough to know some of its history, but I am open to new ideas rather than being tied to the "this is the way we've always done this" philosophy.

I am a CPA and have a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's?

At St Paul's we have beautiful liturgy and music; well-prepared and delivered homilies; lovely facilities; a community that welcomes young and old, straight and gay, and different nationalities; and we provide several outreach activities.

My dream is that we can share this with more people in such a way that those individuals will feel welcomed and want to become part of the community.

I also hope that we can achieve financial security in the near future.

