

# St. Paul's 2021 Vestry Nominees

In accordance with the bylaws of St. Paul's, this year's Nominating Committee has nominated candidates for election to leadership positions in the parish. If elected, these candidates will begin their terms in January 2021.

We nominate the candidates on the following pages for the positions of Co-Wardens, Vestry members, Co-Treasurers, Clerk, and Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

This year's annual meeting will be held virtually in the afternoon of **Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. Candidates will be elected by parish vote during that meeting. All members of St. Paul's are invited and encouraged to attend and offer their vote.

—Wally Frey, on behalf of the Nominating Committee

*In forming the Nominating Committee, parish bylaws specify that the Vestry elect one member from the parish and the Priest-in-charge or Rector appoint another. This year the vestry asked that all retiring members of the vestry serve on the Nominating Committee.*

*The members of this year's Nominating Committee are:*

Kate Adamson	elected by the Vestry
Nikkya Hargrove	appointed by the Priest-in-charge
Diane Jellerette	retiring from the Vestry
Donna Lewis	retiring from the Vestry
Wally Frey	retiring from the Vestry

# Candidates for Co-Warden *two positions available for election*

## **George Anderson**

The new year will mark my seventh as a member of the St. Paul's community. Three of those years I spent as a member of the vestry with one of those focused on the Priest-in-Charge selection recommendation. It's not an understatement to say my years here have been an affirming--even life changing--experience. Growing up in a conservative church, organized religion had not been a spiritual experience until I found St. Paul's. That's one of the reasons why I am passionate about giving back to a community who's been a vital part of my development. In my professional life, I'm a Chief Learning Officer with a background in organizational psychology. In this role, I focus on group process and task team effectiveness and while I recognize the difference in faith-based and corporate organizations, I hope to draw on my experience to help St Paul's navigate these unusual times. My partner, Kennis, and I look forward to the time when we can safely gather together again in person.



## **Terri Polley**

After a 10-year hiatus from organized religion, my husband Rob and I decided to dip our toes back in the water with compline at St. Paul's. That was Labor Day weekend, 2017. From there, we ventured into Celtic Eucharist. The holidays were soon upon us, so we showed up at the Christmas Eve Eucharist and were blown away by the joy, the devotion, the authenticity of the packed church. It was early in 2018 when we attended a regular Sunday Eucharist, and that clinched it. We found our spiritual home. Serving on the vestry in 2019 and as co-warden in 2020 has enabled me to combine my deep personal faith and spirituality with my professional experience as a corporate leader and CPA. While times are challenging and the work is hard, saying yes and showing up at St. Paul's has been easy. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve another year as co-warden. As a people of faith and hope, let's continue on this journey together as we navigate this changing world.



# Candidates for Co-Treasurer

*two positions available for election*

## **Anthony Howard Crisci**

Anthony Howard Crisci became a member of St. Paul's in the Spring of 2011 and has enjoyed participating in parish life in a myriad of ways. His time at St. Paul's has included altar service, serving on the social justice committee, helping to organize fundraising events, serving two terms on the vestry, serving on the endowment fund committee, serving one year as treasurer, and serving several years as assistant treasurer. He looks forward to taking on the position of Co-Treasurer at our church in 2021 and believes that ensuring a strong financial foundation for our parish is necessary to allow us to continue sharing the love and healing powers of God through our church. Anthony lives in Norwalk with his husband Will and two dogs and enjoys gardening, cooking, and hiking in his free time.



## **Chris Spiegelman**

St. Paul's has been my spiritual home for over a decade. Since the first Sunday I attended services I felt welcomed relaxed and spiritually fit. The radical welcome to all, our commitment to our community and our excellence in worship keeps me coming back.

I am a partner at the international tax firm Andersen in Greenwich, CT where I lead the firm's alternative investment group. I am a CPA with over 30 years of experience consulting business in all areas of accounting and taxation. Being of service is a very important part of my life and I believe that my skill set is in alignment with the role of co-treasurer and look forward to working with my co-treasurer and the vestry to further the mission of St. Paul's.



## Candidate for Clerk *one position available for election*

### **Sandy Bria**

My introduction to St Paul's was discovering the labyrinth almost 7 years ago. After walking the labyrinth on many occasions, I decided to step into the church and join a service, where I was "radically welcomed". Serving on the Vestry for the last two years as Clerk has been a privilege and afforded me the opportunity to say "thank you" for the gifts of community and spiritual healing that St. Paul's has given me.

My family has lived in Norwalk for over 30 years. After retiring from the corporate world, I transitioned into consulting for the nonprofit world and now I live fully in the "grandmother aka MiMi" world which is the absolute best world so far! I am looking forward to continuing to serve St. Paul's in whatever capacity I am able.



## Candidates for Vestry *three positions available for election*

### **Gisella Foster**

I started my spiritual journey with St Paul's at a young age. In the beginning I was part of a very small choir and also participated in the bilingual masses. There was a point in my journey where I almost drifted away from the Church but I always knew that St Paul's would be there when I was ready to come back and true to form St Paul's welcomed me with open arms. One of my first memories of coming back to St Paul's was having Anne Watkins welcoming me almost every Sunday. This is one the many reasons why I keep coming back. A few years later my sister Alie joined me with her family. At 9 years old, Logan also joined me as part of the altar party and has being there ever since. Sydney and Morgan are part of Seabury Academy. I also know they feel as connected and loved by the St Paul's community as much as I do. I am very honored to receive the nomination to this upcoming Vestry cohort. I am excited for this next step on my spiritual journey, my hope is to bring my deep love for this community and St Paul's to this role.



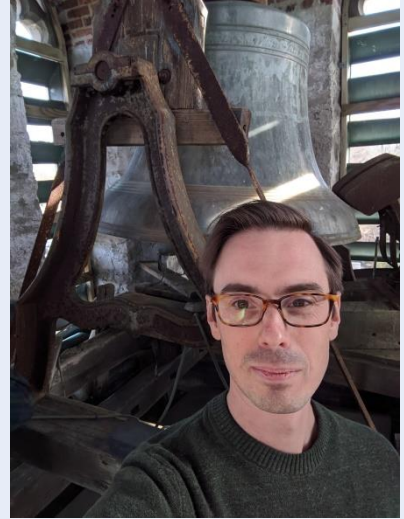
### **Nikkya Hargrove**

Over the years, my family and I have grown to love the community we have in St. Paul's. As a multi-ethnic family, led by two moms, myself and Dinushka De Silva, our kids also have found a home in the pews and the arms of the congregation. In 2011, we committed to making St. Paul's on the Green our church home and have all been involved in playing a part in this very special community. From our son, Jonathan who is a part of Seabury to getting our twin daughters, Aviah and Lera, baptized by Father Peter, to watching my wife serve at the altar, and to my ministry on the healing team, we love this community. It is with humility that I accept the nomination to this upcoming Vestry cohort which feels like a natural next step in my spiritual journey. To this role, I will bring not only my love for St. Paul's but my love for the community. I am the Director of Programs for an NYC heart-health nonprofit organization and a part-time freelance writer, all skills which will help me be the best vestry member I can be. When I am not freelance writing for Scary Mommy, an online publication, you can find me working on a memoir due to be released Fall 2022.



## James McNutt

I'd like to say that having previously served on the Vestry as the clerk for two years that I know what I'm getting myself into. And to some extent that's true, despite what currently seems like a thick fog of uncertainty. I know I'll get to work alongside clergy, staff, and fellow parishioners for whom I have so much respect; with whom I sing hymns, debate books, swing incense, keep vigil, raise prayers, and listen for and discern God's responses. I know that there will be hard work, difficult budget seasons, and tough conversations. While there are many challenges ahead, there are also so many opportunities to seek out and find. I am so honored to be asked to take part in that, and I humbly accept. As the Head of Technology at Darien Library, I am similarly tasked with maintaining and investing in an infrastructure on which another community which means so much to me depends. A great perk of my job is that I always have piles of books in various states of being read strewn across my coffee table. And as with so many at St. Paul's, music is so important in my life, and I am so lucky to regularly play in a string quartet.



# Candidates for Delegate to Diocesan Convention

*two positions available for election*

## **Jennifer Hudson**

I've proudly called St. Paul's my spiritual home for the past six years. It's where I found healing, family, and new purpose. It's where I've seen God's love manifest. It's where I was formally received into The Episcopal Church. It's also where I heard a call to ordained ministry. I've served in many different roles and ministries over the years—Vestry, subdeacon, lay preacher, healing minister, lector, choir, Cabaret co-chair—and no matter the role, each has brought a profound sense of joy and meaning for no other reason than this: I am serving God and God's beloved in this community, and part of something far greater than myself. I've taken this ethos beyond the walls of St. Paul's, both in volunteer work and work with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). I humbly accept and thank



you for my nomination as continuing delegate to the Annual Convention of the ECCT. My work on the Vestry at St. Paul's equipped me well for the business of the Annual Convention in October. Whether voting on resolutions or participating in world café conversations, the interests of this community informed my contributions. Following the Annual Convention, I served as part of a follow-up group focused on reaching out to newcomers. I look forward to continuing to represent St. Paul's and working with the ECCT.

## **James McNutt**

*James will continue for a second year as a delegate to diocesan convention. See James's biography listed above.*

