

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION**





## **2021 Candidates**

### CANDIDATES FOR WARDEN

Abigail Gorman, Senior Warden

Sara Glenn, Junior Warden

### CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

Mike Davis

Emily Lawson

Andrew Marshall

Kris Moore

Kerrienne Piester

Will Villota

### CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Kirsten Sherk

Jane Ward

### CANDIDATES FOR ALTERNATE DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Patricia Riley

Chris Schumann

Ann Wakefield



ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**WARDENS' STATEMENT**  
ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION

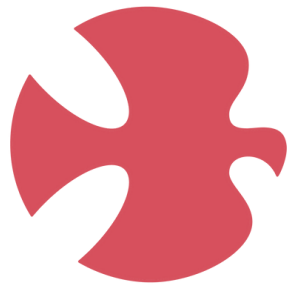
This is an exciting time at St. Columba's!

The newly renovated Nave is spectacular. Even more so with people in the pews and music lifting us up. Courtyard services continue with the crisp fall weather as a backdrop. Outreach ministries are engaged and actively helping those in need. Robust initiatives are underway with important goals to create a just society, take on racial injustice, and address homelessness, refugee response and climate change. We are blessed to have talented, creative clergy and staff to guide us as we take the next step in our journeys of faith.

There is so much to celebrate. This is fueling a joyful energy to Live God's Love. Let's continue to make St. Columba's a welcoming, caring community and make a difference in the world beyond our doors. Our outreach goals and our inward work of community-building are supported by stewardship contributions. Contributions have been strong in recent years. We can build on this trend if more parishioners pledge and more increase their pledge amounts,

We look forward in hope to the coming year. We are grateful to be part of this wonderful community; and grateful for the privilege and opportunity to serve as Wardens.

Abigail and Sara



# CANDIDATES FOR WARDEN

## **ABIGAIL GORMAN** **SENIOR WARDEN**

Occupation: Chief of Staff, American Institute  
of Architects

Family: Patrick Gorman (spouse)

Children: Michael  
and William Gorman

As a long-time parishioner and current vestry member, I have benefited from many opportunities to serve the church, including teaching Sunday School, participating in the Mothers' Group, serving on the Mission Statement committee and the Finance committee. I also helped to launch the Grate Patrol, a program that allows our community to actively participate in a loving response to a great need throughout DC: hunger in the homeless community.



## **SARA GLENN** **JUNIOR WARDEN**

Occupation. Retired, formerly head of government relations and senior legal counsel for Fortune 50 company

Family: Adult Children: George and Phillip Geiger

I joined St. Columba's 28 years ago when my first child was born. I have been a Sunday school teacher, J2A Leader, usher, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and a member of Mothers' Group and the vestry. St. Columba's strategic plan calls on us to strengthen community and embrace the world around us by, for example, working to end family homelessness in the D.C. area. Our community has the energy, innovative thinking and commitment to advance these goals. It will be a privilege to serve as junior ward and to work with Ledlie, Abigail, the vestry and the broader parish as we seek to Live God's Love.





## **CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY**

# MIKE DAVIS

Occupation Assistant Director, Public Company Accounting  
Oversight Board  
Family Elizabeth Lan Davis (spouse), Warren and Grant



Church Experience Our family came to St. Columba's 8 years ago. For many years, I taught Sunday School, and for the last 2 years I have had the privilege of serving on the Finance committee, which has heightened my appreciation of the incredibly talented people and the wonderful things God is doing in this place. I grew up in the Baptist tradition and even obtained a master of divinity degree before inexplicably becoming a lawyer, but have since found the Episcopal tradition, and St. Columba's in particular, to be the spiritual community within which I feel most comfortable. What I love most about St. Columba's - and will nourish and support if honored with the opportunity to serve - is the dedication of our clergy, the inspiring worship experience, and that there is a place and ministry for everyone.

# EMILY LAWSON

Occupation: Non-Profit Executive, Education and  
Social Impact

Family: Tom Amis (spouse); Jacqueline (11),  
Charlotte (9) and James (9)

Church Experience: Our family joined the St. Columba's community seven years ago when our kids enrolled in the nursery school and we began attending services in the Great Hall. We felt welcomed, accepted, and guided spiritually -- even with three energetic children! Over the years, our kids have participated in the Childrens' Choir and Sunday School and I have taught Sunday School. As a family, we have been active volunteers at Loaves and Fishes. Recently I had the privilege to Chair the Renovation Team for the Children's Ministry, and collaborate with our amazing staff and parishioners to articulate our strategic direction. I am honored to be invited to stand for Vestry. If elected, I would want to help to discern and plan St. Columba's path forward as we emerge from the pandemic and embrace the "new normal", as individuals, as a congregation, and as Episcopalians serving the broader community.



# ANDREW MARSHALL

Occupation: Senior Vice President, Engagement, with the Atlantic Council, a think tank; former journalist.

Family: Married to Elizabeth Gardiner; daughter Alice, 7.

Church Experience: We came to St Columba's in 2014 when we moved here as our daughter was born, and it has been the center of our community since. We are regular attendees at the Children's Service, where I have been Chief Usher for three years, and have many friends there. Alice attended St Columba's Nursery School and we are still close to many classmates and their families. I have worked on the Vestry Nominating Committee for the last two years as well as attending Fathers Group (when we met in person!). I hope that I can bring a view of the church from the Children's Service and the parents who worship there, one of the key communities for a growing congregation. I have ideas about how we present ourselves to the world. And I can draw on organizational experience from the many places I have worked around the world (I am British).



# KRIS MOORE

Occupation: Senior Scholar and Past President at Child Trends

Family: Jeff Moore; 4 married children and 4 grandchildren

Serving on St. Columba's Vestry during this challenging time has been a privilege and a blessing. Worship is central to membership, of course, and varied opportunities will need to be available in the foreseeable future. As chair of the Environment Committee, I greatly value environmental practices at the church and extending our concern with environmental racism to the larger community. Professionally, I am a social psychologist and do research about children and youth; I was actively engaged in STEP and have an ongoing interest in programs for children at St. Columba's and through Housing Up. I served on the Vision Task Force and am an usher. I think that matching the capacity of clergy, staff, and volunteers to meet the varied needs of church members together with the challenges we recognize in the larger community, will require prayerful planning and ongoing innovation as we seek to live God's love.





## KERI PIESTER

Occupation: Teacher, 10+ years DC Public Schools  
Family: Ron Wisor (spouse); Will (23), Hope (21), Tess (19)



Church Experience: Since joining St. Columba's in 1996, I've found many opportunities to deepen my faith and reach out to our broader community. As a vestry member, I currently serve on the Stewardship Committee. I also continue leading our efforts to welcome and support refugees as the co-chair of the Refugee Response Ministry. I'm eager to continue working with St. Columba's vestry members to fully realize our strategic vision, particularly our commitment to ending family homelessness. Most of all, I want to continue supporting ways all St. Columbans can hear God's call, connect with one another, and build a more just and loving community.

## WILL VILLOTA

Occupation: Vice President, Marketing & Communications, Opportunity@Work  
Family: Gwynne (spouse), Alex (5) and Izzie (1.5)

I came to St. C's as a "grown-up" with my wife Gwynne in 2015 and immediately felt a connection to the faith and compassion of this community. Now as parents, we experience St. C's through the eyes of our two children - sitting on the carpet for Gospel stories and coloring the Sunday program, followed by running around the playground with friends. Having grown up Catholic, I sometimes feel guilty calling this Church - but then my heart tells me this is exactly how children should come to know God. This is the essence of the St. C's "brand" and it's why I seek a spot on the vestry. As a marketing professional with experience in climate change and racial equity, I hope to bring to the vestry unique insights into our community and new ways to deepen engagement on what may be the two most critical issues of our time.







# **CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATE**

# KIRSTEN SHERK

Occupation: Director of Communications, Family Planning 2020



I joined St. Columba's 2016 when I returned to DC after 11 years away. At my church in North Carolina, I lead the Outreach Committee as well as our multi-faith community social justice efforts. In DC I was seeking a community that likewise lives out the calling of Micah, to act justly and love mercy – but with good music! – which lead me here. I have taught Grade 5 Sunday school and led the lay support group for our seminarian Katie Beaver. I also participated in one of the Sacred Ground circles, a course I recommend for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of racial injustice in America. I have been deeply moved by Bishop Mariann's missionary leadership for justice. I would be honored to represent St. Columbans in the church's efforts in strengthening our community and advancing equity and justice.

# JANE WARD

As a long-time member of St. Columba's and life-long Episcopalian, I'm honored to be asked to run as an diocesan delegate. As a young person, I attended several conventions in the Diocese of Western NY, General Convention of the US Episcopal Church, and worked as a youth staff assistant to the 1978 Lambeth Conference. Since joining St. Columba's in 1991, I've been an active Sunday School teacher, member of Mother's Group, and outreach, choir and youth ministry volunteer. It's been great fun to have organized several Decoration Sundays and Chili Cookoffs. I have also served on a youth minister search committee, Nominating Committee, and the Youth Council.





**CANDIDATES FOR ALTERNATE**



# PATRICIA RILEY

Patricia A. Riley is a retired Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where she served from 1984 to 2018. She was the first Chief of the Sex Offense Section from 1990 through 1998, and was Special Counsel to the United States Attorney from 1999 through 2012. She has been an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law School since 2015. Since she retired, she has also worked as a consultant with the Prosecutors' Center for Excellence, an organization that works to help improve the criminal justice system.

Ms. Riley is one of the founders of the D.C. Children's Advocacy Center and of the D.C. Bar Lawyer Assistance Program. She has served on dozens of interagency working groups, task forces, and committees. An adult-lifelong resident of the District, she joined St. Columba's in 1993 and sings in the choir. She is a member of the cooks committee and has served as a diocesan delegate.



# CHRIS SCHUMANN

Occupation: Retired Federal Government Lawyer

Wife: Cathy Wiss

Adult Children: Sarah and Thomas

Cathy and I found St. Columba's – or, perhaps more precisely, were found by St. Columba's – in 1982. We've been parishioners ever since. I've served two terms on the Vestry; served on the Nursery School Board of Directors; served several times as Diocesan Delegate and Alternate Diocesan Delegate; served as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee; led a committee on meeting the needs of children with special needs; led the Nights of Columba ministry of evening watch and welcome; and served as a Lay Reader. I've participated in or led numerous adult education committees and discernment committees for candidates for the priesthood and the diaconate; I've participated in or led discussion and discernment groups as innumerable as the grains of sand on the shore.



# ANN WAKEFIELD

Occupation: Retired librarian from the Federal government. I retired at the end of March, 2020 as the Reference Librarian in the Corporate Library of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

I joined St. Columba's in 2012. Currently, I am a member of the Altar Guild, the Usher Team, and the 42nd Street Fellowship. During the past nine years, I have served on the Nomination Committee and the Adult Formation Committee. I have also attended various study groups. In addition, I served as an Alternate Delegate and a Delegate from St. Columba's to the annual Washington Diocesan Convention. Since the start of the pandemic, I have watched the St. Columba's online services and participated in online Bible studies and online book group discussions. All of these activities have helped me grow spiritually from the wonderful environment of St. Columba's.





ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION

## ELECTION FAQs

### **Who is qualified to vote?**

The Bylaws state: A "qualified voter" is a person who is: (a) at least 15 years of age; (b) a communicant in good standing of the Episcopal Church, as defined in Title I, Canon 17, Sections 1-3, of the Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church; (c) a contributor of record to the Parish (which contributions may be cash offerings or services rendered to the Parish and known to the Treasurer); (d) recorded in the Parish register; and (e) who has, at the time of the Parish Meeting, met the foregoing requirements for a period of not less than one month.

### **When and how will voting done this year?**

This year, voting will be conducted online beginning on October 31 and through paper balloting at St. Columba's on November 7 and 14. In order to vote online you must ensure that your email address is on record with St. Columba's in the online directory (Realm). All voting closes at 2pm on November 14.

### **Is my vote confidential?**

Yes. Both online votes and paper ballot votes are confidential. There is no way to associate your name with your vote. Further, once votes are tallied, the voting records will be deleted or destroyed.

### **Will there be a Candidate Forum this year?**

Yes. This year the Candidate Forum will be pre-recorded and available for viewing beginning Oct. 31. All candidates will be introduced, and each nominee for vestry will comment on his or her experiences at St. Columba's and priorities for the parish.





ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION

## ELECTION FAQs

### **What do wardens and the vestry do?**

They are the elected voice of the laity at St. Columba's. The vestry consists of the rector; a senior and junior warden (the primary elected lay leaders of the congregation, who preside at vestry meetings in the rector's absence), elected to one-year terms; and 12 members, who are elected to three-year terms.

The vestry determines how to allocate the resources of the parish, serves as the legal representative for the parish's corporate property and provides formal feedback to the rector and the clergy.

### **What do Diocesan delegates do?**

Delegates represent St. Columba's at the annual diocesan convention, which brings together clergy and lay members from all 88 congregations under the Bishop's leadership to decide the diocesan budget, elect members of various diocesan bodies and vote on special resolutions. The delegates also represent the congregation in other key forums, such as the Regional Assemblies each fall, when the Bishop meets with clergy and delegates from each of the diocese's six regions. St. Columba's diocesan delegates serve as an alternate for one year and then, are elected to a two-year term as a delegate.

### **How are candidates chosen?**

Candidates for vestry and diocesan delegate are chosen by the Nominating Committee, which is headed by two vestry members. Candidates for warden are chosen by the rector. The 2021 Nominating Committee members are Jim Barnett, Charlotte Dean, Amy Howe, Martha Kaiser, Gina Lambright, Melissa Lockett, Ryan McNavage, Molly Reynolds, John Rusciolelli, and Josh Wilson.