



A Sacred Place for All People

# 2023 Trinity Cathedral Elections

## Vestry – 3 year term (elect 4)



### Marie Curry

**Profession:** Legal Aid Lawyer

**How long at Trinity?:** 22 years

**Involvement at Trinity:**

- Children raised here, from Godly Play through High School Youth Group
- Founding board member of Ten Thousand Villages fair trade store
- Cathedral Council member
- Current: Peace, Justice, and Mercy mission team

**Why do I want to be on vestry?:**

My family and I made a commitment to Trinity over two decades ago. We have been engaged, sometimes more, sometimes less, over that entire time. Our love of worship, music, forums, adult formation, social justice focus, and connections to the people that define what Trinity means to us. Being on vestry will deepen my understanding of how Trinity manages in a secular world. I look forward to listening and learning, as well as sharing my time and talents.



### Patty Roberts

**Profession:** “Professional” Volunteer. In addition to the time that I dedicate to church, I also serve as a volunteer for arts and civic organizations.

**How long at Trinity?:** 20 years

**Involvement at Trinity:** I’ve been a vestry member, warden, board member of Music & Art at Trinity, member of the dean search committee, member of the music director search committee, member of Cathedral Council, member of various committees including the Trinity Commons executive committee and Trinity’s 100th anniversary celebration committee. I’ve enjoyed my time with several ministries, including the Knitting Pearls, the Bible Challenge, ushering and as a lay reader. Although I’m most likely to attend the 11:15 service, astute observers may also spot me at the 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. because it gives me an opportunity to catch up with friends that I might not see at the later service.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?:** I would like to serve one last term on vestry so that I can continue to work on the projects and plans now underway and help bring them to completion. During the height of the pandemic, the safety of every member of our Trinity community was my top priority. It took the combined efforts of the clergy, staff and vestry to come up with creative solutions for worship and gathering, and I’m pleased to note that we now are more confident in our ability to meet tough challenges and see good things ahead for congregational growth and programming. I would like very much to continue helping to shape our future.



### Gary Benjamin

**Profession:** Retired Attorney

**How long at Trinity?:** We began attending in 2007 and joined in 2008.

**Involvement at Trinity:** I have mainly been involved with Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) for the past 10 years as a member of Trinity’s Core Team; leader of the Health Care Committee of the Core Team; Core Team Leader; and member of the Management Team of the overall GCC organization. The Management Team takes care of personnel and other policies and monitoring the finances, similar to the role the vestry has for the cathedral. I am particularly proud of the work we at Trinity have done to establish and grow GCC so that it has become one of the strongest forces for good in Cuyahoga County.

I have also spent one year as a Sunday School teacher, which gave me great respect for our teaching volunteers, and several years in the choir. I was elected to the vestry in 2018 and have served on

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committees dealing with restructuring support staff; rewriting personnel policies; and working in the new ministry structure as liaison to the Peace, Justice and Mercy mission team.

Trinity's Immigration Ministry changed about 4 years ago to support a new non-profit some Trinity people together with other faith-based and non-faith-based leaders to provide financial support to immigrants and their families as they seek legal status. See [www.AMISOhio.org](http://www.AMISOhio.org). I serve on that Board.

The last few years on vestry, with the transition to new clergy leadership while dealing with COVID, was challenging. This vestry has helped to keep Trinity strong; vibrant; socially active; and financially stable. We have met the challenges.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?** I want to continue the work we started in reorganizing the cathedral so that it will, hopefully, continue to have an impact as a Christian organization on our communities now and far into the future. Moving more towards an anti-racist stance and developing relationships with organizations that are also working against racism is important to me. Spreading the Gospel by our actions is what we do. I hope to continue and increase our involvement in social change activities.



### Beth Billings

**Profession:** Currently small business co-owner, *Around the Table Yarns*, Shaker Heights since 2019. Previously stay at home parent, knitting teacher and retail associate at two yarn stores and originally a prenatal genetic counselor.

**How long at Trinity?:** Trinity member since 2007

**Involvement:** Lector, choir member and Knitting Pearls small group member/leader-15 years vestry, stewardship and Music & Art-3 years Worship, Art and Music mission team since September 2022

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?:** I think serving on vestry is a lot about representing the people of our congregation, specifically when decisions are made in our collective governance. My first term began when our dean was quite new and there was so much he and we all wanted to accomplish. Then came COVID, and what started out as cathedral “business-as-usual” became “how do we meaningfully pivot and use our resources at a time of crisis?” The learning curve was kind of steep. On this side of the pandemic, I feel ready to get back to the “business-as-usual” part and all the plans we were so enthusiastic about before March of 2020. I also feel great confidence in the direction of the cathedral's recent growth and very much want to continue as a servant of our congregation on the vestry.



### Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

**Profession:** Deputy Director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library

**How long at Trinity?:** 21 years

**Involvement at Trinity:** 10 years as a youth leader, approximately 16 years with *A Place at the Table* and as a lector. Served on vestry for approximately 2 1/2 years. Have served on hiring panels and other personnel committees.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?** I was appointed to complete a term in 2018 and found that I enjoyed the work and this new way to serve my church. My professional experience in operations, personnel and leadership have been utilized well during my first vestry term.



### Marilyn Valencia

**Profession:** Institutional Research, currently at Lakeland Community College, previously at Ursuline College and John Carroll University. Institutional Research includes collecting, analyzing, and reporting of statistics in higher education. Previously: Greater Cleveland Drug Court Coordinator and Program Officer at Cuyahoga County; Finance Director at Cleveland Municipal Clerk of Courts; Capital Budget Analyst with city of Cleveland

**How long at Trinity?:** Over 25 years; I also grew up at the cathedral and was an acolyte and Diocesan Youth Leader

**Why do you want to serve on the vestry?:** I love the Cathedral and its people. I am invested in furthering the mission through growth and the appropriate stewardship of resources. It would be an honor to serve in this way.

**Involvement at Trinity:** Team leader for *A Place at the Table* (served for over ten years); Urban Farm (two+ years); Greater Cleveland Congregations and prior groups (25 years); Mitten Tree Program: delivered gifts to children of incarcerated parents (2019); PRIDE Parade (2022); 2021 General Convention Delegate (stand-by); Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival participant (2019). I love the cathedral and its people. I am invested in furthering the mission through growth and the appropriate stewardship of resources. It would be an honor to serve in this way.

**Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?:** I love the Cathedral and its people. I am invested in furthering the mission through growth and the appropriate stewardship of resources. It would be an honor to serve in this way.

## Vestry – 1 year term (elect 2)



### Audrey Hudak

**Profession:** Project Manager, Population Health at the Cleveland Clinic

**How long at Trinity?:** 10 years

**Involvement at Trinity:** I have been a member of the Trinity Cathedral Choir since 2013, served as leader of the 20/30s group, as a member of Cathedral Council and then Cathedral Council Chair, and recently as an appointed vestry member.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?:** I am called to use my skills and abilities to be a servant leader = my project management and organizing skills! It is also important to have a variety of voices on vestry and I pay close attention to the voices of the younger adults.



### Mark Biddlestone

**Profession:** Director of Facilities Operations, Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP (AmLaw 200 law firm)

**How long at Trinity?:** Eight years

**Involvement at Trinity:** I serve regularly as an usher. I am also an active member of vestry, the Personnel committee, and the Building and Sustainability committee.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?:** I bring 40 years of experience in operations management, human resource management, and facilities management – 18 of those years within a large law firm environment. In addition, I have previous church committee experience in staff/parish relations administration. Using that background, I want to continue to bring real value to the vital and meaningful role Trinity plays in our city as well as the individual lives of its growing congregation.

## Vestry – 2 year term (elect 1)



### Antoinette (Toni) Ponzio

**Profession:** Over 40 years of work and volunteer experience including customer service, community and union organizing, Peace Corps volunteer, retail sales and management, teaching and training of adults with mental retardation, phone sales, clerical work and data entry and writer.

**How long at Trinity?:** About 20 years

**Involvement at Trinity:** Regularly worship and serve at 9 a.m. service. EFM graduate and mentor; Co-leader of Knitting Pearls; Helped develop curriculum and currently serve as a trainer for Diocesan Anti-Racism Training; Member of Trinity Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of The King; Helped organize Becoming Beloved Community group at Trinity; Bible Study leader and participant; Member of Adult Formation Team; Sacred Ground facilitator.

**Why do you want to serve on vestry?:** To utilize my ministry involvement and experience: Evangelism, Pastoral Care (through Knitting Pearls), Adult Faith Formation, Spirituality, Peace and Justice, Congregational Life Events, Worship (lector, intercessor, Eucharistic minister), Diocesan or Ecumenical Ministry (Bishop Search Committee, Diocesan Commission on Racial Justice)

# Nominating Committee – 2 year term (elect 1)



## Becky Snider Fuller

**Profession:** Retired Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

**How long at Trinity?:** About 30 years

**Involvement at Trinity:** I have been active in many activities at Trinity over the years. I taught children's Sunday School for 13 years in mostly 2nd and 3rd grades. I have been active in outreach, adult formation, and stewardship committees and I served on the vestry for 6 years. Some of the highlights of my involvement here have been The Uganda Project, planning adult Bible studies and the work we are now doing at Marion Sterling Elementary School.

**What do you look for in a leader?** In my role on the nominating committee, I will look for people who are active in growing their faith and who are involved in ministries. I will also seek to find people who have the specific skills we need on vestry and next year's nominating committee.



## Karla Rivers

**Profession:** Quality Software Engineer for PNC Bank.

**How long at Trinity:** Since 1980

**Involvement at Trinity:** Through the years I have been a member of the choir, on the Nominating committee and Cathedral Council. I currently serve as a Sacristan, Eucharistic minister and lector and I'm a member of the Worship, Art and Music mission team.

**What do you look for in a leader:** Someone who's committed to service in the community. Open minded, creative solutions and a good listener.