

VESTRY BIOGRAPHIES 2024

Deanna Barteet

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Vestry of St. John's Parish Church. After recently retiring as a Church Administrator, I have accepted the calling from our Lord to serve my church.

My husband Dannie and I have been members of St. John's Parish for over 30 years, raising both of our children, Danyelle Blitch & Joseph Daniel Barteet in the church. Dannie and I have been married for 42 years and are blessed with five grandchildren.

I serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and have previously served twice on the Vestry, the Building Committee for Walton Hall, Prayer Team, Daughters of the King, Fellowship Committee, Sunday School teacher, Altar Guild, and many other ministries of the church through the years. In the Diocese, Dannie and I have served through the Couples Conference, Cursillo and Faith Alive.

I look forward to serving in this exciting season of St. John's Parish as we are blessed with a vibrant and growing membership and ministry.

Richard Baughman

Dear Parish Family, I was born in St. Francis Hospital, downtown Charleston, on March 16, 1959. At the time, my mother was a St. Francis nurse, and my dad drove a Coburg Dairy delivery truck, so my birth certificate reads: Mother's occupation: Nurse. Father's: Milkman. Our parents raised my four siblings and me on a small farm in Hollywood, SC, down Chaplin's Landing Road. There we tended all the standard farm animals, baled our own hay, owned a sawmill, and were taught many of life's greatest values. Through that upbringing, along with the help from the Royal Ambassadors at our small local Baptist church, at 12 years old I came to know and accept Christ Jesus as my Savior.

Soon after, our family moved to a small home off Wappoo Road so we children could attend St. Andrews High School. I drove a school bus, participated in the school theater, participated in multiple sports, and was the skinniest lineman on the football team. While living there, our family searched for a new church home, and eventually settled at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (more recently known as Church of the Good Shepard), where on Dec. 5, 1977, we were confirmed into the faith.

I graduated from Newberry College in 1981 (Go Indians!). I've lived in North & South Carolina, and Georgia, throughout my 34-year career, and retired in 2015. All those years were spent in manufacturing, with my job responsibilities devoted to procurement & contract negotiations.

I was blessed to meet Angie in April 2000, and we married in May 2004. We each have one child from our previous marriages, and we raised them in Elgin, SC. Both of our children are married and have blessed us with a total of three grands, so far. While in Elgin, we attended St. David's Episcopal Church in northeast Columbia. In addition to the many church committees we joined, both Angie & I each served as Vestry members, two terms each.

On December 7, 2021, we moved back to Hollywood to the same little farm noted above. Since then, we have been attending St. John's Parish Church. On November 14, 2022, we moved our Letter of Membership, and on June 18, 2023, we were received through Reception.

If elected to serve as your Vestry member, I promise to offer the best of my abilities for St. John's Parish Church, as a partner of Team Baughman. Thank you.

Lynn Gervais

I joined St. John's Parish Church in 1983 after marrying Perry in April of 1982. I grew up in the Lutheran Church of Orangeburg where I was baptized, confirmed, and learned to love my church family and serve as I was led. As a young adult at St. John's, I grew in my knowledge and love for God, building on that foundation. I am blessed to have learned so much from Bible classes, encounter weekends, mentors from St. John's, and opportunities to serve God in His church. St. John's has always been more than just a place for Sunday worship. Perry and I raised our children here and developed relationships with fellow Christians who we count as one of life's greatest treasures. As I continue on this journey, I hope to serve the Lord Jesus and others in His name. I am so excited to see where the Holy Spirit is leading our church.

Heath Gunther

My name is Heath Gunther. I was born and raised here in Charleston. I've been happily married to Elizabeth Gunther for almost 11 years. Arthur Jenkins actually officiated our ceremony at Saint James, where Elizabeth grew up attending. We joined St. John's Parish a year or so after, because we were active in a young adults group with Jamie Sosnowski and other St. John's members. Elizabeth and I have three boys: Charlie (7), Henry (4), and William (1). We are so thankful the Lord chose us to be their parents, and has blessed us with this parish to raise them in. Being a parent is one of our greatest joys in life.

Professionally, I own and operate a family business, McFadden Pest Control Inc. that my grandfather started 45+ years ago. I've previously served on vestry from 2018-2020. That period of service taught me that even though I was a younger and new member of the congregation, I realized quickly that the Lord had called each one of us to serve on vestry because of our unique perspectives. Being called to serve on vestry is not something we should take lightly. Elected from our parishioners, we have a duty to the church, to serve the church, however the Lord is calling us to do so. It is important for us to engage with fellow parishioners in order to bring new ideas and thoughts to the Vestry each month.

In closing, we currently are in an exciting time for our church. Our numbers are growing, we closed on the new property without having to secure a loan, and we are in the initial stages of planning a church building! Even with all that going on, we are still sending mission groups out into our community and to other countries to spread the word of God. I will serve on vestry if elected by our parishioners, and if it is not in the Lord's will for me to be elected to vestry at this time, I know whoever is called will lead us through the exciting times.

Stephen Haynsworth

I've been a member of St Johns Parish for the last 40 yrs. I helped with the youth group for about 15 years. I served on the Outreach Committee and Missions committee. I have also previously served on the Vestry and participated and led mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Peru. I help work with groups of people from different churches to repair homes on the Sea Islands. I am also active with the Kairos Prison Ministry. I am also the Parish Emergency Response Coordinator and ARDF Diocesan Coordinator. I want to be a voice and representative for my fellow parishioners for their questions and concerns as we grow and develop new facilities and programs.

Walt Miller

I was born in Tennessee to an army dentist and a Memphis gal. The family shipped immediately to Germany and spent the next 20 years moving every couple of years until my parents retired to a Tennessee farm. I stayed in Columbia to finish my degree and talk Louise into marrying me. I taught Middle School and Elementary gifted and talented students in Columbia, spent a few years at SC Department of Health and Human Services developing state childcare standards, then completed my service to the State at MUSC teaching student patients in the Institute of Psychiatry. I worked at St. John's from 2006-2020 as the Faith Formation Director and as Community Pastor, retiring from that when Rob Sturdy at The Citadel asked me to come aboard there as a volunteer. I participate at St. John's in small group studies, Domestic Outreach, and the Missions Committees. I have just started classes toward becoming ordained as a Deacon to more fully serve Fr. Jeremy and our community. Louise and I have four adult children, whom she raised beautifully despite my interference, and we were blessed with our first grandchild last April. Oh...hobbies: tennis, pottery, and writing.

John Smoak

Born and raised on Johns Island, I was baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church in 1971 by Reverend Guerry. Rick Belser was the Rector at the time and helped me learn to love the Lord at a young age. During my early teens, my parents moved back to Yonges Island where they are both originally from, and I attended St Paul's Episcopal Church. Later on, I married my wife Curry of 25 years now, and we began to attend St. Michael's where Rick Belser served as the Rector and baptized our two children there (Ellie now 23 years old and John William 19). Curry and I recently moved back down this way to Rockville 2 1/2 years ago and decided to change our membership back to St. John's, where I feel like I have come home. I love this church and the people who serve here, so I feel honored to have the opportunity to possibly serve on this Vestry in such an important time. Being that I grew up literally between where St. John's was and where it will be feels right.

Through the years I have led EYC groups, attended and taught marriage courses, along with leading an Alpha course, men's hikes, camper, and counselor at Camp St. Christopher (where I met my wife), attended men's conferences, led numerous small groups and have always been involved.