

## Nominating Committee Report

At each Annual Meeting of the congregation, we elect at least one Warden and three Vestry persons — more if there are vacant unexpired terms.

Elections will be held at this Annual Meeting to fill the following terms of office:

- Warden, two-year term
- Three Vestry persons, three-year term
- Two Vestry persons, one-year term – vacancies created as a result of Russell Urban-Mead being nominated for Warden and Deb Belding stepping down after the second year of three-year terms for each

We thank outgoing Warden Joe Gasparini and outgoing Vestry persons Mary Jo Garlo, Eric Zavadil, and Deb Belding for their service.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying candidates to stand for election. The following individuals have agreed to stand for election.

### Statements of Candidates for Office

#### **Russell Urban-Mead is standing for a first two-year term as Warden.**



The job of the Warden is not very well defined, but I have always understood the ideal Warden as someone welcoming, present, and involved with keeping things running. If elected as your Junior Warden, I hope to be this way, and will welcome the opportunity to work with Senior Warden Mike Glancey, the full Vestry, and with everyone in the congregation. I thank Joe Gasparini for his years of service as Junior Warden and also prior Wardens who have set such good examples. I have been an Episcopalian for about 40 years, served previously and presently on St. James' Vestry along with currently also serving as Treasurer. Recently I have found myself increasingly engaged with how St. James' seeks to be a model community reflecting Jesus' values and example. Things I particularly notice include our avid congregational fellowship, the ways we respond to needs in and beyond Hyde Park, and our efforts to thoughtfully manage our property and finances, always in partnership with our Rector Mother Meredith as she leads spiritual care for us all.

#### **Regina Dahlgren is standing for a first three-year term as Vestry person.**

I was warmly welcomed when I returned to St. James' about two years ago after a few years away, and I have found a home



to explore and expand my faith here. Previously, my family and I had attended – my daughter spent her elementary, middle, and high school years here; during that time, I served on the Vestry, was a Sunday school teacher, usher, and lay reader, and assisted with the graveyard tours. Currently I am a lay reader and substitute pledge clerk, guide graveyard tours, work with the gardening group, and assist as needed in other areas. I am pleased to be nominated for the Vestry this year, and I welcome the opportunity to use my skills gained in my careers of book publishing and adult ESL education to give back to this church that is so life-giving to me.

**Joanne Lown is standing for a first three-year term as Vestry person.**



In my childhood I attended St. James. About 16 years ago I returned and started attending regularly. Over the years, I have held several positions within the church, starting as Assistant Treasurer, then serving as Chair of Outreach for over 10 years. I continue to be an active member of Outreach. In the last few years, I joined Altar Guild, and today I am once again Assistant Treasurer and a member of the St. James Finance committee. My career as Town Bookkeeper/Comptroller for over 35 years has equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to help run a nonprofit organization. I believe I will be an asset to the Vestry

“team” by sharing my years of business experience as we meet and discuss our Church’s future. It would be my honor to serve as part of this team.

**Anne McGrath is standing for a first three-year term as Vestry person.**

In the two and a half years I’ve been a member of St. James’, have joined the Altar Guild, Vestry, and Acolyte ministries. I have also completed the Communities of Hope International training, offered by the Diocese. I was confirmed at the church and sponsored another parishioner in her confirmation. I look forward to growing my spirituality and sharing my experience as a community organizer, low-income housing provider, special education teacher, and death doula.



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**Kathleen Ferreira is standing for a first one-year term as Vestry person.**

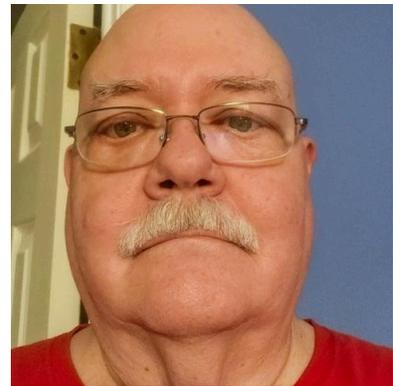


A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, I had my early foundation in Christian faith established by a loving adoptive family and early education in a sound parochial school. In 1980 Abel and I wed at Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls. Establishing our home and businesses in Hyde Park, we turned to join St. James’ and were warmly welcomed then as now. We flourished in the parish

through shared worship and committee participation--Abel on Vestry and I on Nursery School BOD, as it was referred to at that time. We raised our two daughters in the community, actively serving in their endeavors. Practicing dental hygiene for 40 years respectfully enriched my understanding of individuals' personal needs, goals, and values. Currently, we attend the 10 a.m. service. We enjoy serving as ushers, on Alter Guild, substitute pledge clerk, and opportunities to help behind the scenes. My Christian beliefs have been and continue to be a compass to point me through the various leadership roles in my professional, academic, civic, recreational, and personal relationships. I genuinely appreciate learning of other's opinions and experiences. It is my goal to use these tools to serve St. James' for the good of all. I invite to you approach me with any questions on my interests and hobbies.

**Jeffrey Crutcher is standing for a first one-year term as Vestry person.**

I am a veteran of the Air Force, where I served as an aircraft mechanic. After my tour I attended college for electrical engineering technology but left the program after being offered a position for a local firm. Subsequently, I spent 35 years in EMS as a paramedic and was a volunteer firefighter for 15 years. With each of these roles I developed a skillset requiring analytical problem solving as well as making critical decisions rapidly. I was drawn to St. James because my life was missing a spiritual anchor. Becoming a Vestry member would allow me to serve St. James' Church and provide a good example of stewardship to my grandsons.



Respectfully submitted by the 2025 Nominating Committee:

Maggie McNamara, chair  
Regina Dahlgren  
Karen Gasparini  
Mike Glancey

Cathy Lane  
Ron M. Lane  
The Rev. Meredith Kadet Sanderson,  
ex officio