

# **2023 Annual Meeting Elections**

## **Slate of Candidates**

### **Candidates for Senior Warden**

Casey Reiser

### **Candidates for Junior Warden**

David Polet

### **Candidates for Vestry**

Ryan Brown

Anne Keller

Tim O'Shea

### **Candidates for Diocesan Convention**

Carolyn Chadderdon

Stephanie Elkins

Karen Evans-Romaine

Casey Reiser

## Candidate for Senior Warden

### Casey Reiser



**For which position are you running?** Senior Warden

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

I became a member of St. Andrews shortly after our daughters were born (Anna b.1985 and Emma b. 1987) as I felt a need for a supportive faith community to help raise our children. At the time, 'it takes a village' was a popular phrase. I visited St. Andrew's and soon realized I had found our village.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I participated in an Episcopal 101 (the class name escapes me) primarily to learn more about the church. When I felt comfortable with what I knew I was formally received into the church. I have served as a Sunday school teacher, vestry and Altar Guild member, lector/usher, and for the past two years, senior warden.

**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I retired one year ago from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health where I was director of the Master of Genetic Counselor Studies program. This position required organizational and management skills and keeping track of requirements in multiple systems (hospital systems, national accrediting bodies, university requirements etc.). In addition, as a student mentor and clinical genetic counselor I have honed my listening skills which helps me bring together individuals to achieve a common goal. These same skills have helped me grow in my role as senior warden and to be ready for another term.

**What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

Two years ago I wrote- "Having been part of the Mission committee and facilitating parish listening groups suggests our community cares very deeply about two issues-one is being back together and recharging our parish after the isolation of COVID 19 restrictions and two-the social justice issues and disparities made more evident by the pandemic and growing acts of violence against marginalized groups (especially people of color). I don't see either of these issues as more important than the other, but rather synergistic i.e. the efforts each requires will support the other." This has not changed. We continue to gain energy around these issues through support of each other and strengthening our relationships.

## Candidate for Junior Warden

### David Polet



**For which position are you running?** Junior Warden

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

We have been members of this parish for 7 years. We came to St. Andrew's from St. James ELCA in Verona as a homecoming to my wife's tradition. The warm environment mixed with strong liturgical tradition made it a perfect match for us.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I only became a member of the Episcopal Church when we became members of St. Andrew's, and I was confirmed by Bishop Lee in May of 2022. I have had a long history of being active and deeply interested in the church, worship, and theology. I grew up in the Christian Reformed Church and, since moving to Madison, have been a member of two different strains of the Lutheran church-Missouri Synod and ELCA.

### **What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

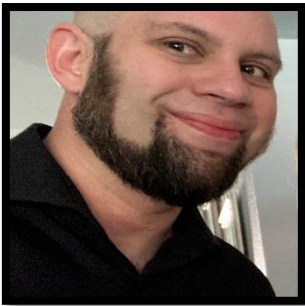
I joined the Vestry in 2021 and have served as Junior Warden since 2022. I served on the church council at St James ELCA in Verona for 6 yrs, 5 of which I served as president of the council. I currently serve as treasurer for a local arts organization. My professional career has centered around the project management discipline, so I do bring a lot of organizational and structure experience into this role. Within those structured processes, I have found a good balance of rapid adaptability and curiosity which has helped to move my career forward.

### **What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

One area that I have focused on in the past year is the use of the Newell House space. While it has served us well over many years, I believe we are at an inflection point. As St. Andrew continues to understand its role and mission in a post-pandemic world, how we use the space and our resources surrounding that space is important for living out our mission.

## *Candidates for Vestry*

### **Ryan Brown**



**For which position are you running? Vestry**

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

I came to St. Andrew's in 2015, shortly after our son Adrian was born and in need of a baptism.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I have been attending St. Andrew's as a parishioner since 2015 and have gone through the confirmation process. I have also been one of the Church School teachers.

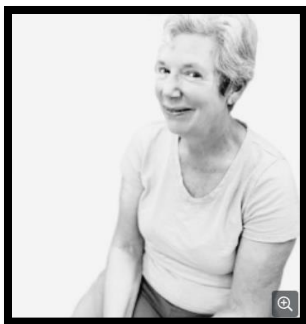
**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I bring the perspective of someone who did not grow up in the Episcopal tradition but have two young kids who are.

**What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

I have enjoyed being a Church School teacher and think this is a great area for kids to learn about the church and the Bible beyond service.

### **Anne Keller**



**For which position are you running? Vestry**

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

I first attended in 2010 and have participated regularly since that time. I love the ritual, the teaching, the opportunity to grow in faith and friendship and community. I love the Eucharist for its mystery and the exaltation of our music program. I also appreciate the opportunity to participate in social justice projects and learning.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I was raised in a conservative Methodist Church in North Carolina. I attended high school at an Episcopal school in Raleigh. I stepped away from religious affiliation for forty years. When I wanted to come back, it was to the Episcopal Church that I was drawn.

**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I love working in community with people who share a sense of purpose. I attempt to hear other points of view and can be a good listener. I want to see St. Andrews continue to be relevant for the present and future, seeking and serving God in all

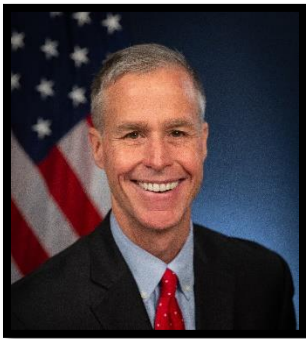
people.

**What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

Attracting and maintaining a vibrant community of members, people of all ages.

Continuing work on social justice within our community.

## Tim O'Shea



**For which position are you running?** Vestry

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

I joined St. Andrews in 2018. I was looking for, and found, a faith community that reflected the values to which I aspire.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

As a former Catholic, my story of joining the Episcopal Church may be similar to others who joined as adults. While I disagreed with the global (not local) Catholic church over many things, for me, the last straw came in 2018. As an early riser and lousy singer, the St. Andrew's musicless 8 am service was a natural fit. More important, I met and was welcomed by Fr. Andy and the impressive early bird group who attend the 8 am service.

**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I've been lucky enough to help organize and move projects forward for my local office—the U.S. Attorney's Office—and the U.S. Department of Justice overall. I've also been lucky to have worked in service/leadership positions in kids' sports, the Boy Scouts, a local bar association, and my former church. One begins such roles to help out, but inevitably one ends up having fun and making friends.

**What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

In a time of national declining church enrollment, and of growing national pessimism and stress, I suggest one focus should be on growing the body of Christ by inviting new members. In Fr. Andy, and in all of you, we have a good thing going at St. Andrew's: community and opportunities to serve and grow in faith. Inviting and welcoming our friends and neighbors into a place of purpose and community serves them, our Christian mission, and the broader community.

# Candidates for Diocesan Convention Deputy

## Carolyn Chadderdon



**For which position are you running?** Diocesan Convention Deputy

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrews?**

I joined St. Andrews in 1990 when we moved into the neighborhood and have been a member for 32 years. I went to St Francis house for several years (2 kids baptized there) and followed Deacon Susan Mueller to St. Dunstan's for a year (3rd child baptized there).

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I was raised Presbyterian but had many relatives that were Baptists, Methodists, Evangelical, and small country church religions. My friends in college and young adult life were Catholics and Lutheran. I attended all these churches often with these people. In high school, the Episcopal and Presbyterian youth groups were joined. My first time in the Episcopal Church was Christmas Eve in 10th grade. I loved the liturgy and everything about it. It was very meaningful. I joined the Episcopal Church in college in Lincoln Nebraska.

**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I enjoy working in broader groups and to connect with other Episcopalians. I am interested in participating next year as we explore the possibility of joining into one Wisconsin diocese. I have been a representative to the convention about 4 times in my 32 years of membership. I enjoy it and would be happy to represent St. Andrews again.

**What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

1. Be a loving, caring, accepting community for those we encounter inside and outside our walls. Encourage and help people on their faith journey wherever they are at.
2. Support group and individual work in the community that helps us love our neighbors.
3. Raise up new leaders and support families raising children to learn to love God. Help all follow their purpose and calling in this world.

## Stephanie Elkins



**For which position are you running?** Diocesan Convention Deputy

**How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

In 2016 I decided to explore Episcopal churches in the area and settled on St. Andrew's immediately – I was drawn in by the sense of welcome, care and acceptance; by the powerful, meaningful sermons, and by the music ministry. I became a member right away and have been singing with the choir since then. I am also a member of the Vestry (second year.)

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I was born to two Episcopalians, but my father was in the military so we were always moving and attending a different church. When I was 11, we settled in Arlington, VA for five years, where I had my first experience with a real home church. I was confirmed there at St. Michael's at age 12 and in 2017, I went through confirmation classes again here at St. Andrew's, some 45 years later. I wanted to get to know the Episcopal Church better as an adult, and I wanted to commit to it with all my heart and soul and of my own volition.

**What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

My strengths include curiosity and open-mindedness; independent and critical thinking skills; interest in other people and the ability to listen. My talents include public speaking, writing, and analytical thinking. My undergraduate degree was a double major in political science and French, and I studied economics in graduate school. Other experience includes working in the corporate, entrepreneurial and nonprofit sectors, and serving on a number of nonprofit boards.

## What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

1. Maintain and broaden financial stability; build on the excellent work already accomplished in this area;
2. Continue to focus on diversity, inclusion, equality, belonging and access; support continued social justice outreach, build on the work already accomplished in this area;
3. Care and feeding of clergy and leadership;
4. Foster a sense of welcome and belonging for new and potential new members;
5. Support our diocese as it moves toward reunification with the other two Wisconsin dioceses.

## Karen Evans-Romaine



**For which position are you running?** Diocesan Convention Deputy

### **How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?**

I became a member of St. Andrew's in June 2013. I was looking for a church home for myself and my son, then going into second grade. I checked out the St. Andrew's website, saw the announcement of Mother Dorota's first service, attended, and never looked back!

### **Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

I was raised Roman Catholic. I began attending the Anglican Church of St. Andrew's in the heart of Moscow in the 1990s. When I came back to the US to take up my first job as an assistant professor, I attended the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio. There I served on the Vestry, as a chalice bearer, and on a discernment committee, and I sang in the choir. I felt very much at home there. I feel just much at home here at St. Andrew's. I have served one three-year term on the Vestry (2017-19), served for three years on the Stewardship Committee (2020-22), and have been teaching the younger kids (4K through Grade 1) in Sunday School for several years. For the past two years I have been scheduling volunteers for service at our Sunday worship. I was Diocesan Convention Deputy in 2022 and in 2023. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience and would be happy to repeat it.

### **What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?**

I enjoy working collaboratively. In addition to teaching at UW-Madison, I am president of a national professional organization whose leadership works closely together, I am co-director of a federally funded program for Russian language learners, and I serve on departmental and university committees. So I participate in meetings and national conferences frequently and work with colleagues daily. I enjoy meeting new people and learning from others. I enjoy administrative work as well as teaching and learning. I like to think that I am organized and a good listener, and I focus on hearing all sides equitably and finding consensus. And I take good notes!

### **What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?**

We are at a critical time in St. Andrew's and in our diocese. The proposed consolidation of Wisconsin dioceses reflects change and opportunities for new growth and discussion. At St. Andrew's this is a time for us to focus on new growth as well: as a thoughtful, supportive community that welcomes new members and makes everyone feel welcome and supported; on our continued work toward diversity, inclusion, equity, and access in our community; on our formation programs and activities for members of all ages; on supporting kids and families at St. Andrew's; and on our outreach to our neighbors in and around Madison.

## Casey Reiser



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