

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 a 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. I had been raised Catholic but that was not an option for me moving forward.

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. I wanted to be sure that the principles that drove me away from the Catholic church, the faith community I was raised in, were not also in Episcopal teachings. 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 Alter Guild member, lector/usher, and for the past year, senior warden.

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

I recently retired as director of the Master of Genetic Counselor Studies program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. This position required organizational and management skills to keep of 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. There has been a learning curve to being a senior warden, and while not always smooth, these same skills helped me to move forward and be ready for another term.

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

A year 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. Perhaps what has, is the need regain energy around these issues through continued 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 6 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 this year. 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 have held the position of Junior Warden this calendar year and was a member of the vestry in 2021. 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 on two boards of non-profit organizations as treasurer for both of them. 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?

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we have a great opportunity to discuss and consider how to use this space to support our mission and outreach in this new time. One initiative I am currently kicking off is the reexamination of the Newell House space. We have a number of groups who use the space, but the space is old and will need more and more care and investment over the next few years. I want to ensure we have a clear plan and objective for that space and for the church space as a whole.

Candidates for Vestry

Carolyn Chadderdon



For which position are you running? Vestry

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?

Being a pediatric nurse for 35 years, I am a child and family advocate. I will give my honest opinions about issues. Although I have a lot of history on "how things have always been", I think change is necessary. Having the younger generation opinions, leadership, and creative thinking will breathe life into the church. I believe that hospitality and gathering together feed the membership in many ways. I hope we can start to do more of it in a safe way going forward. I am a member of altar guild, casserole brigade, and chalice ministries. I have been known to do a few receptions.

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.

JoAnne Lehman



For which position are you running? Vestry

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

I started attending St. Andrew's after I moved to Madison's near-west side in 2009, drawn to its neighborhood location and to the inclusive welcome and open-minded acceptance I encountered in Fr. Andy and the late archdeacon Susan Mueller – not to mention the camaraderie I found in the Wednesday morning Eucharists and post-worship “holy bagel hours” that happened here back then. Over the years I've been able to participate in some Outreach Committee efforts and take advantage of racial justice learning opportunities, and a decade ago I had the personally transforming experience of being in a small discernment group

for a member considering a call to ministry. I was a diocesan delegate during the pandemic (in the early Zoom era), when we approved the interim leadership of Bishop Jeff Lee.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

The child of a Baptist minister descended from Mennonites, I was a high-school Jesus Freak and a college evangelical in the 1970s. In the 1980s I started to experience and explore the Episcopal Church at another St. Andrew's – in Ann Arbor, Michigan – and was confirmed there. In the early 1990s I lived in Seattle, where I was a member of St. Mark's Cathedral, helped lead its middle-school youth group, attended the diocesan lay seminary for a semester, and then felt called to some years of what I'd describe as important spiritual wandering. I moved to Madison in 1995 to be with my life partner, Martha, with whom I explored worship and community with the Friends (Quakers) and the Unitarian Universalists as well as the experience of being unaffiliated with any faith tradition. (Martha and I married non-legally, “in the manner of Friends,” in 1998, and then legally, in a civil ceremony in Iowa, in 2013.) Along the way, I kept being drawn back to the Episcopal Church, eventually to stay. I favor ecumenism and think of myself as a Quakerish Episcoversalist. My current influences include Carrie Newcomer, Brian Doyle, Diana Butler Bass, and Bishop Steven Charleston.

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

What I'll bring: a contemplative approach to critical thinking; lots of questions; the experience of accompanying parents through dementia and physical decline; writing and editing skills; a sense of humor; commitment to unlearning racism and working toward justice; experiences both within and on the margins of the institutional church; desire for practical community and mutual aid; and whatever wisdom I might have accumulated in 65+ years of living.

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

I think this community's priorities should be to further develop its work of manifesting Christ's radical inclusiveness and compassionate justice in the world and to care tenderly for its most vulnerable members.

Dennis Lloyd



For which position are you running? Vestry

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

I moved to Madison in May 2015; Karen Evans-Romaine was on the search committee that hired me, and I remember her mentioning the strong music program and insightful sermons from the clergy before I arrived. I came one Sunday with a plan to visit the other Episcopal churches in town, but never got around to going anywhere else. Transferred my membership shortly afterwards.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was raised in Methodist and Baptist Churches in North Carolina, but as I grew up I felt increasingly less at home there. While in graduate school I joined Christ the King Episcopal Church in Normal, Illinois, and was confirmed there shortly before my

daughter was born. Since then and before arriving in Madison I've lived in Lexington, Kentucky; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and Gainesville, Florida. I was involved in the Episcopal Church to various degrees at each location, very active in the choirs in Pittsburgh and Florida, and served on the vestry at Holy Trinity in Gainesville.

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

My previous experience on a vestry, during which we ran a capital campaign, taught me a lot about listening, working together, and paying as much attention to the process (i.e., *how* we conduct business) as to the end result. Recognizing that everyone cares deeply about the community of St. Andrews is key, and if done carefully the whole will be greater than the sum of its parts—a truth I've observed over the past four years as a member of the Stewardship Committee.

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

The pandemic forced us out of public spaces—and we're not back yet. Continuing to prayerfully ensure that we're connected spiritually, physically, fiscally, and comfortably is probably the perennial challenge to us all (not just the vestry), but the issues sometimes seem more fraught in today's world.

Jeff Ocwieja



For which position are you running? Vestry

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

I joined St. Andrews when I moved to the Madison area in 2015 to attend law school. I decided on a whim to attend a service and immediately fell in love. I was born and raised as a Roman Catholic, so the service and ceremony felt familiar. About two years after joining, I went through confirmation programming and was eventually formally welcomed into the Episcopal Church.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

As stated above, I had no experience with the Episcopal Church prior to moving to Madison in 2015. I was looking for a new spiritual home after moving from Milwaukee. While I loved the beauty and richness of the Catholic Church, I was looking for something different as I began a new phase of my life. It became readily apparent very early on that the Episcopal Church – but more importantly, the wonderful congregation at St. Andrews that has embodied the church's values since the first time I attended a service - was that "thing" I was looking for.

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

I am not a "social butterfly," and sometimes struggle to make connections. But I am very enthusiastic about practicing radical love toward all those whom I serve in my personal and professional life. I have spent the entirety of my legal career representing indigent criminal defendants, first as an assistant state public defender and now in my own private practice. While boasting is contrary to my nature, I believe my experience as a criminal defense attorney would be valuable to the Vestry because I am a rationale thinker, a practiced problem-solver, and a passionate believer in service toward others.

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

A church is worthless if it does not serve those who are on the margins of society. St. Andrews need to continue to challenge its preconceptions and push itself past its comfort zones. If elected, I would push the Vestry to encourage hands-on ministries in the community to build connections with others who might not share our traditions and combat negative stereotypes about what 'church people' do (or don't do). We shouldn't "light a lamp and put it under a bowl," but rather "put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." We can't be afraid to get our hands dirty or be perceived as 'weird' by the world around us by following Jesus's calling to feed, clothe, and comfort those around us who are truly in need.

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, by the palpable love and mutual care permeating the congregation and leadership, by the powerful, meaningful sermons that often move me to tears, and by the music ministry. I became a member right away and sang with choir from September of 2016 until COVID restrictions were put in place.

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. As far as experience goes, 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: build on the excellent 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; continuing the excellent work already being done in this area

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), have served for three years since on the Stewardship Committee, and taught in Faith Garden for several years. Most recently I have been scheduling volunteers for service at our Sunday worship.

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

I am associate chair for undergraduate curriculum in my university department and co-director of a federally funded program for Russian language learners, and I serve on a number of departmental and university committees. I am also president-elect of a national professional organization. So I participate in meetings and national conferences frequently. 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 good listener, and when running meetings 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 election of a new bishop is an important event for everyone in our diocese, and it will be important for all of us to participate in any way we can. The proposed consolidation of Wisconsin dioceses reflects change and opportunities for new growth and discussions. At St. Andrew's this is a time for us to focus on new growth as well: on our financial health, given the changes in attendance brought by COVID-19, here as everywhere; on our growth and development as a thoughtful, supportive community that welcomes new members and makes everyone feel welcome and supported; on our continued work toward diversity, inclusion, and equity of access in our membership and our formation programs and activities; and on our outreach to our neighbors in and around Madison and in the world.

Janet Hyde



For which position are you running? Convention Deputy

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

We moved to Madison in 1986 and visited Grace Church and St. Andrew's. We immediately felt the friendship and warmth of the St. Andrew's congregation and joined. I treasure St. Andrew's.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I came into the Episcopal Church in college while at Oberlin College in Ohio. My first husband, Clark Hyde, was an Episcopal priest, and I was a rector's wife for nearly 20 years, until Clark passed away.

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

I have served 3 three-year terms on the Vestry and 1 three-year term as Senior Warden. I chaired the search committee that brought Fr. Andy to St. Andrew's and was a member of the choir for decades until my voice got old. I believe that I have a strong understanding of Episcopal Church governance and values.

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

1. We need to rebuild following the disruptions of the pandemic. Rebuilding is essential in multiple areas, including reinstating a vigorous, in-person church school; reviving coffee hour; encouraging parishioners to get back into the "habit" of attending Sunday services; and re-establishing friendly welcoming of newcomers.
2. We must continue and expand our social justice initiatives. We have been focusing on race and that should continue, but I would like to see expansion into some other areas such as reducing gun violence.

Casey Reiser



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. Andrews a 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. I had been raised Catholic but that was not an option for me moving forward.

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. I wanted to be sure that the principles that drove me away from the Catholic church, the faith community I was raised in, were not also in Episcopal teachings. 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 Alter Guild member, lector/usher, and for the past year, senior warden.

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

I recently retired as director of the Master of Genetic Counselor Studies program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. This position required an understanding of big issues and systems (hospital systems, national accrediting bodies, university requirements etc.). In addition, as a student mentor and clinical genetic counselor I honed my listening skills which helps me empathize with the perspectives of others. Perhaps the most relevant skills for the Diocesan Convention Delegate is listening before forming opinions and reaching a decision on issues brought forth.

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

A year 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. Perhaps what has, is the need to regain energy around these issues through continued support of each other and strengthening our relationships.

Candidates for Endowment Committee

Judy Mills



For which position are you running? Endowment Committee

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

I became a member of St. Andrew's over 40 years ago, soon after I began attending UW-Madison. I attended services at St. Francis House for a year but then discovered St. Andrew's and have been here ever since. My three children were baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's. I was recently married at St. Andrew's!

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was baptized and confirmed at Christ Church Cathedral in Eau Claire and am a lifelong Episcopalian. At St. Andrew's, I have served as a chalice bearer, lector, intercessor, counter and teacher for Sunday School classes (ranging from pre-school to high school). I was an Adult Leader for St. Andrew's participation in the Appalachian Service Project for 6 mission trips. I served on the Vestry from 2018 to 2020 and as Clerk for the Vestry in 2021. I am a member of the Outreach Committee, which is working to support Madison's black community to attain home ownership.

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

The endowment committee is responsible for establishing an application process and making recommendations to the Vestry for the distribution of funds from our permanent endowments. I am very familiar with the Episcopal Church, having been a lifelong member. I served on our Vestry, which deals with distributing funds at St. Andrew's. I also worked as an attorney for the State of Wisconsin for over 35 years, a position in which I dealt with similar issues on a secular level.

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

I strongly support St. Andrew's continuing outreach efforts and partnerships in the local community: area schools, housing issues for black families and individuals, food pantries, The Road Home, Just Bakery, and equality efforts for all minority groups, whether based on race, class, sexual orientation or gender identification. For our internal church life, I believe a high priority should always be placed on Christian Education, both for children and adults. As we slowly emerge from the pandemic, I think we must strive to welcome back existing members and think of creative ways to attract new members to our parish. Last, but not least, I believe we need to place a high priority on supporting our clergy and other staff in every way possible.

Sherry Reames



For which position are you running? Endowment Committee

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

I came to St. Andrew's with my late husband, Fred, in the winter of 1988 and have been here ever since. We moved to Madison about 10 years before that and had been active members at St. Francis House until issues arose with the chaplain that persuaded us and others to seek a new church home.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

Although both Fred and I came from Methodist families, we fell in love with the liturgy of the Episcopal Church in our teens and were confirmed as Episcopalians shortly before our wedding in 1962. We didn't become

committed churchgoers, though, until 1968, when we moved to Tuskegee, Alabama, where the (mostly Black) parishioners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church made us feel so welcome that we were hooked for life.

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

Since I am already serving on the Endowment Committee, I understand both the general mission of this committee and the current plan to revitalize its role at St. Andrew's as we bounce back from pandemic inactivity. I am willing to commit the necessary time and energy to make this happen.

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

My priority issues would be bringing more young people back to the church (both attending in person and being engaged in church activities), revitalizing the church school and youth group, and doing more outreach into the community—and not just our immediate neighborhood. In particular, I'd like to see us engaging again regularly with the folks at St. Paul AME--worshiping together when we can, sharing special meals and celebrations, and finding projects we (and our youth groups) can do together.