



2020 Candidates for Election to lay offices at St. Alban's Parish

(Listed in the random order in which they will appear on the ballot.)

FOR JUNIOR WARDEN:
(vote for one)

Ted Swett
Carol Aschenbrener

FOR VESTRY MEMBER:
(you must vote for four)

Megan King
Karina Rodriguez
Rachel Colson
Anton Vanterpool II
John Thorne IV
Carol Aschenbrener
Lisa Garnett

Our **Parish elections** will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2020** – the day of our Parish Annual Meeting. Qualified voters will cast ballots that morning, although absentee ballots can be obtained from the Parish Office for voting beginning on Monday, January 6. The candidates will speak at a **Candidates' Forum** on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**.

2 CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR WARDEN (3-year term) (vote for 1)



Trevor (Ted) Swett



Carol A. Aschenbrener

My wife Ann and I have resided in the Washington area since 1981 and have worshipped at St. Alban's for about eight years. I retired last June from Caplin & Drysdale, where I practiced as a commercial litigator for some thirty-four years and served on the Board of Directors for about half that time.

Something about Saint Alban's drew me readily into the life of this church. I took part in Grate Patrol and remain a Diocesan Delegate (my term expires next year). I've enjoyed lay reading. In February 2018, I became Secretary of the Vestry with responsibility for preparing minutes of Vestry meetings and participating on the Executive Committee of parish officers. I am now also a Vestry member, having been appointed in May 2018 to fill a mid-term vacancy. These activities have enhanced my awareness of the myriad facets of this great church, the committed work of the parishioners and clergy who make it all go, and the crisscrossing ties that bind us together.

Having spent a good part of my childhood in Central America, I have a love of the Spanish language and Latino culture and am glad to see us grappling with the challenge of how best to become a unified parish of two languages.

It's critical for the parish to keep nurturing our common life: worship and song; teaching and learning; ministering to the ill and the grieving; evoking and satisfying our need to serve others within and without these walls; observing our traditions while cultivating the openness to attract and accommodate newcomers. The vitality of these core functions is what attracts folks to our parish. The special charge of the parish officers and the Vestry is to see to it that no aspect of this work is neglected, and to encourage all willing hands to pitch in.

Under our Bylaws, the Junior Warden takes the lead in overseeing and coordinating the efforts of our Chief of Operations and staff with respect to the upkeep and usage of the parish properties. Our buildings and grounds are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spirit grace. They call for our loving care and thoughtful planning to ensure that these physical assets enhance the core work of the parish, rather than becoming costly burdens that distort and limit our purposes. I hope that the experiences described above, together with common sense and commitment, will equip me well to carry out the functions of Junior Warden if you elect me to that office.

Raised and educated in the Catholic Church, I found the Episcopal Church shortly after moving to Washington 23 years ago. I attended the Maundy Thursday service at St. Margaret's and knew instantly that I was "home". As a member of St. Margaret's, I served two terms on the Vestry, three years as senior warden and two terms on the finance committee. In addition, I had the privilege of serving on two discernment for ordination committees and acting as a lay eucharistic minister for over ten years.

Two of my three granddaughters and I joined St. Alban's three years ago, drawn by the vibrant community here, the strong Christian education programs, and the opportunities for involvement in lay pastoral care. When I retired from full-time employment after 40 years as an academic and physician-executive, two of my priorities were to find a supportive spiritual community and greater involvement in lay pastoral care. St. Alban's offered both. Participating in a contemplative Way of Life group and serving as a Stephen minister have greatly enriched my life. In addition, I served as a teacher for Rite 13 for one year and am currently finding my way as a Godly Play teacher for the K-1st grade group and a new member of the Adult Formation committee.

My professional life as an educator and physician-executive included considerable experience in planning, designing and implementing programs, collaborating across work groups and different professions, and developing and managing people. The Stephen ministry and Sunday School teaching allow me to share talents from my years as physician-educator and serving on the Vestry would be an opportunity to share some skills from my executive experience. Selfishly, it would also help me to get to know more of the wonderful people of the St. Alban's community. As some of you may know, one of the challenges of retirement is constructing a new sense of meaning. I have found new meaning in my service at St. Alban's and welcome other opportunities to serve.

7 CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY: 3-year terms (you must vote for 4)



Rachel Colson



Megan King

In early 2017—while planning a wedding and navigating the foster care licensing process—Justine and I found St. Alban's. We were overcome by the warm welcome. And by all the children.

I'm a cradle Episcopalian. From an early age, I was moved by the liturgy—it both grounded and stirred me, comforted and provoked me. But as a kid, I always craved something deeper than our home parishes provided. After college I found it in the Young Adult Service Corps. For one year I lived in Kisumu, Kenya and worked for an NGO loosely affiliated with the Diocese of Maseno West. The experience was formative. It shaped how I interpret my call as a Christian, what it looks like to truly love neighbors as ourselves, and how to live in communion.

Justine and I—now married and licensed foster parents—are thankful to have found and been welcomed into this community. I'm currently serving a one-year term on the Vestry, during which I've learned about the parish's rich history and current ministries and helped with the 2020 stewardship campaign. We regularly attend Children's Chapel, along with Jade and Jeremiah, who joined us in 2018. And I attend the forums as often as possible.

If called to continue to serve on the Vestry, I'll keep learning about our various ministries and support efforts to build and sustain relationships in our community and world. I will explore ways to help grow our membership and get regular attendees more involved.

My family and I have been members of St. Alban's for about seven years. We started coming to church when our daughter Eva was only two. She is now ten and is a thriving member of the St. Alban's community. During the past seven years I have experienced many transitions in my life – job changes, surgeries, illness, my daughter going to university – and through all the change, St. Alban's and the St. Alban's family have been one of my strongest anchors.

A few years ago, during a St. Alban's retreat, I was moved to seek treatment for my major depression. I believe in my heart that St. Alban's helped lead me out of a deep darkness and suffering and for that I am eternally grateful. While this was one of my bigger St. Alban's moments, it is in the everyday opportunities to bear witness to God's great love in our community that move me to want to serve as part of the Vestry at St. Alban's.

I have been involved in several ministries at St. Alban's including Children's Chapel, teaching Sunday School, helping run the Family Retreat, Christmas Pageant, serving on the recruitment committee for Reverend Emily and then the Children's Formation Committee. I am now a member of the Worker's of St. Alban's Board. My husband Marcus and I also participated in Foyers groups throughout the years to get to know a broad group of people at St. Alban's.

As a community we have so much to give and we are generous with our resources. I believe that to grow and sustain our community we must serve others with radical mutuality. A full belief that we are all equals and that it is through connectivity and community that we can thrive. I hope to be able to use my skills as a creative thinker, problem solver and communicator to this benefit should you choose me to represent you and serve St. Alban's.

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Karina Rodriguez



John Thorne IV

My name is Karina Rodriguez. I'm a 20-year-old undergrad student trying to major in Global Business and Minor in Sociology at Trinity Washington University. Before I went to St. Ann's Academy for elementary and middle school and for high school, I went to St. John's College High School. Interesting enough I also went to St. Alban's during my pre-k years. I was born and raised in DC, and my family is from Nicaragua. I have grown up in this area my whole life and was raised by my mother and my two aunts. My mother and my one aunt, named Ruth and Martha come to this church with myself every Sunday for almost ten years.

Next door to St. Albans, at the National Cathedral School, I was tutored by an organization that uses their space every Saturday morning called Latino Student Fund. I stayed with them for 15 years as a student, and I tutored for two and a half years during my last two years of high school; I had a student named Jordan from 5th grade until half his school year in 7th grade. As I was looking for a job, the organization asked if I wanted to be the Coordinator for the tutoring program I was once a student of for years. I agreed to work part-time and for the past two years I am in charge of trying to get volunteers for 80 students that vary from pre-k until 12th grade students. I also volunteered for a year and half as an acolyte during the morning mass at St. Alban's. I volunteered during the summer in high school at a nursing home. I enjoy volunteering and I have learned so much from my job. It made me realize that I would like to continue my Masters in Sociology and hope to help pre-teens and teenagers in education.

My family and I have been going to St. Alban's for almost ten years. I have met so many new and interesting people, from different cultures and races. I came to love this church because of the people I met, and they became my family. For the past couple years, I have been the go-to person for organizing our Spanish language service. I know the people, their names, where they're from, I know our music and what is most important to us. I am also bilingual and have been able to help our community communicate across what we need and want. I am running for Vestry not only to allow the Spanish service to have a representative; I would like our St. Albans or San Albano, regardless of how you say it, to be one big community. I believe that we should all get to know each other and get out of our comfort zone to do so.

To be asked to run in the Vestry election came as a surprise, but I am honored to be included among this excellent slate of candidates.

Compared to many, I am a relative newcomer to St. Alban's: I have only been attending since the 1990s. I was a member of the youth choir back then, an enthusiastic usher and acolyte, and I went on numerous youth group ski trips. St. Alban's was, and remains, a great place to be a kid. Some of my earliest memories of attending St. Alban's involved being awestruck by Rev. Frank Wade, and my wife and I were able to pull him out of his (well-deserved!) retirement for a July weekend in 2012 to officiate our wedding.

Having baptized my daughters at St. Alban's, I am thrilled to see that the programs for our youngest parishioners are still very strong. Now that I bring my own family to St. Alban's I have an even greater appreciation for the investments in time and resources that support young families, including the Children's chapel, Sunday School, youth choir, and J2A programs that I enjoyed many years ago.

If elected, I will work to make sure St. Alban's can continue supporting its programs that enable young and growing families to participate in our vibrant community.

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Anton Vanterpool II



Carol A. Aschenbrener

St Alban's has been a vital part of my spiritual nurture and personal development for over 17 years. I'm blessed to be a member here.

I served in the United States Air Force for over 20 years, responsible for IT Communications and managing teams of up to 20 people. Over 30 years in Toastmasters International, working on my communications and leadership skills while serving in various leadership roles. I currently work for the Department of Defense as a Cybersecurity analyst.

In my journey, I developed several gifts of the Spirit while serving at St Alban's. I am moved through Exhortation inspiring and motivating others to praise and worship as part of our choir. I employ the gift of Service as a lay leader inside and outside of St Alban's. Supporting our Church School team, as a member of the Diocese Standing Committee and volunteering at Diocesan conventions. Lastly, I have used my gift of Administration helping job seekers through hosting Career Confidence meetings.

My strengths include Collaborator, Analytical, Harmony, and Learner. Exercising these strengths, I have matured spiritually, worked diligently and served passionately. As a Toastmasters leader, I practiced conflict resolution while developing active listening skills. I meet with fellow members as we transition to a computer based learning system called Pathways. I led the effort as a Pathways Guide and discussed the new education system and its benefits. I listened to members' concerns and suggestions.

In Toastmasters and St Alban's I believe we support our members in a collaborative environment. I offer both my military and Toastmasters experiences, identifying ways to serve our diverse, multicultural, and multi-generational communities. I will offer insight through my expertise of outreach and education.

Finally, I have learned to incorporate the discipline of seeking first to understand, intently and patiently listening to God and listening to the needs of our community, Isaiah 32:3.

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Lisa Garnett

While I have lived in Washington for over twenty years, my husband, Tim, and I have been attending St. Alban's for just over three years. Even though we were both raised going to church almost every Sunday (he as a Presbyterian and I as a Methodist), it took us many years to find the delightful combination of warmth, practicality, intellect, and community that is St. Alban's.

My company, Meriwether Scott LLC, provides communication consulting to companies and nonprofits seeking to more effectively convey their messages to target audiences. Having had young children for the last thirteen years, my work has focused largely on them and service in the communities surrounding them. I served on the Beauvoir Parents Association Executive Committee as the head of communications for two years and am currently on the board of Hope for Annabel, an organization that seeks to find methods for curing rare genetic diseases. I have extensive fundraising experience, most recently at St. Albans School, and have been involved with numerous other endeavors, including the Bishop Walker School for Boys. I'm also on the St. Albans School Altar Guild -- please get in touch if you'd like to share your flower arranging skills with this fledgling florist -- and am on the Parent Education Committee there, as well.

I have always had an interest in both organizational development and religion and pursued both Government and Theology at Georgetown University. Prior to having children, I was a management consultant specializing in issues relating to the Department of Defense, particularly for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In that role, the largest part of my work consisted of researching and resolving manpower issues relating to the way we employ, compensate, and build the skills of our Reserve forces.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, I was raised in central Florida. Tim and I have three children -- Graydon, 12, Meri Rose, 11, and Tallulah, 8 -- all of whom attend cathedral schools and have attended our St. Alban's Sunday school.

As a Vestry member, I would be happy to pitch in wherever needed, but I'm particularly interested in issues relating to financial sustainability, maintaining our beautiful historic buildings, and the children's ministry. I'm also very excited at the prospect of listening to how others experience St. Alban's and trying to address areas that could be improved or to maintain what is good and beautiful about the church today. As I have come to understand the history of the church, I'm particularly proud of our legacy of being the first "free church" in Washington and of serving as the longest standing host of an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in the country. I would love to be a part of the continuation of this spirit of openness and service to the community and would be honored to serve on the Vestry.