



LAURA INGERSOLL -- CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR WARDEN

- *How long have you been part of St. Alban's and what activities or ministries feed you spiritually?*

I've been at St. Alban's since 1989, marrying Tom Jansen here in 1994. As my spiritual home, this has been a crucible for my growth in faith and ministry. I'm part of the 5-year-old Way of Life II covenant group, and have helped organize contemplative retreats. I've served on the Vestry (1992-96) and as a Diocesan Delegate. I'm a Stephen Minister, member of the Altar Guild (25 years), lay reader and vergers. I joined in last year's inaugural bilingual Bible-study. Each week, Tom and I work in the Op Shop and volunteer in Tubman School classrooms. I've accompanied our youth on service missions to Belize and Appalachia. I've spearheaded our community Christmas Dinner, and the Gala silent-auction set-up. This is a joyful place to praise the Lord in liturgy and music, and do God's work in the world, and I've been nourished by so many opportunities to grow and serve.

- *What professional experience and personal strengths would help you serve the Parish as a lay leader?*

From contemplative practice and Stephen Ministry, I seek to listen deeply with "the ear of the heart" and respond without letting ego get in the way. As a diplomat's child raised abroad, I learned to communicate respectfully across language (Spanish and French) and culture. As a career federal prosecutor, I know the importance of listening and speaking carefully and clearly, and acting firmly, in high-stakes tense adversarial situations. And from my theological studies (a Masters degree from Wesley Seminary) I've developed a faith-based vocabulary and perspective that permeates my life. As Senior Warden, I'd rely on all these – and on each one of you – in helping lead our community forward.

- *As a lay leader in the church, it is common to work with people of diverse views. How would you seek to move St. Alban's forward as one body of Christ?*

Our St. Alban's community is rich in talent and readiness to serve, and our common journey is enlivened by diversity in life-experience, viewpoints, and hopes and expectations. As in Corinth long ago, it can be a challenge at St. Alban's today to honor our diversity and let it flourish while making good decisions about how to conduct our life together in the face of finite resources of time, talent, and treasure – and without letting our differences become divisive. For we truly "are the body of Christ and individually members of it." It falls to our lay leaders to work with our Rector and her clergy and staff to both help us envision *together* our future and lead us in implementing *together* the means to get us there.



SANDY KOLB – CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR WARDEN

- *How long have you been part of St. Alban's and what activities or ministries feed you spiritually?*

I joined St. Alban's in 2008, drawn by the music, quality of the preaching, vibrant Adult Forums, and warm welcome. Applying faith to daily life feeds me spiritually. Working on mission – community events like the recent recycling day or Syrian refugee blanket drive, making sandwiches for Grate Patrol and SOME casseroles, and identifying recipients for Mustard Seed funding – feeds my soul. Participation in interfaith dialogue and adult formation opportunities that tie faith to everyday life are formative.

- *What professional experience and personal strengths would help you serve the Parish as a lay leader?*

My professional background is in organizational and leadership development. For the past 14 years I have designed and facilitated team-building retreats, planning processes, dialogues and discussions around difficult issues (e.g., abortion, same-sex unions, decisions regarding purchase of property) for congregations in the diocese, as well as with other governing bodies in The Episcopal Church and the United Church of Canada. I am able to create a safe space for people to share their thoughts in ways that can be heard across differences. A lifelong Episcopalian, I have served on vestries and as senior warden before, as well as on Diocesan committees (including the Commission on Ministry), as an alternate deputy to General Convention, and on the staff of Fresh Start, a church-wide program for clergy in new positions.

- *As a lay leader in the church, it is common to work with people of diverse views. How would you seek to move St. Alban's forward as one body of Christ?*

Congregations thrive when they build on their strengths with a clear sense of mission and hope. The strategic planning process helped us articulate our strengths and focus on several areas of mission. This year's successful Gala showed we can reach across our differences for a common purpose. We need to continue to find ways to bring us together in mission. At the same time, restoration of trust within the leadership team and between it and the congregation is vital. Rebuilding trust within the leadership team is the first step. If the rector and vestry cannot discuss critical issues and air their differences within a safe environment, divisions will continue. The Committees on Human Resources, Governance, and Music Transition are addressing many of the concerns raised in the past few months. Following up on their recommendations will help restore trust. In addition, we may need to find a formal way to acknowledge the hurt felt by many and reconcile the life of the parish.