

# 2016

The Episcopal Church of  
Saints Andrew and  
Matthew (SsAM)

## VESTRY CANDIDATES

The Vestry is the governing body of our church, guided by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, as well as our Vision and Mission. In partnership with our Rector, the Vestry members promote the spiritual welfare of SsAM and manage and protect our church property and finances. Members of the Vestry are expected to make every effort to honor our diverse heritage and to support our celebrative liturgy and music, innovative programming, and deep involvement in the life of our community.



**JENNIFER (Jenna) CHRISTY**

I am Jennifer Christy and I've been a member of SsAM since I moved to Wilmington in 2002. I truly do feel that I have a family here at SsAM. I'm a cradle Episcopalian and have served on a Vestry while I lived in Connecticut and also here at SsAM.

I am interested in shepherding SsAM through our 20th anniversary and beyond. I am a long-time biology teacher and have a deep appreciation for the natural world and environmental issues. I've been lucky to travel with family and often with students to many fascinating places around the globe. I'm a gardener and an avid birder. When my husband and I travel, it is either to visit family or to bird and explore new habitats. Did you know that Central Park in New York and Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge are right up there with Costa Rica and Kenya as birding hot spots?

Here at SsAM, Patty Greene and I are heading up the Usher ministry and we look forward to strengthening the welcome that everyone feels as they arrive for the service. I also am in the Drumming Circle and enjoy being part of an active SsAM dinner group. I see great value in the one-and-done type of commitments: clean-up days for both inside and out the building, making wreaths for greening the church at Christmas, creating the banner for the 10th anniversary of SsAM.

I feel quite honored to be a candidate for the Vestry at SsAM again.



**LAURA EISENMAN**

As a regular at the 10:30 service, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a lector and to experience the variety of worship music. I support activities of the Community Advocacy Committee and I join in Sunday morning adult education discussions as I am able. I have been a professor of special education and disability studies at the University of Delaware since 1997 and currently live in the Pike Creek area with my husband, Erik, my adult son Karl, and a feisty Catahoula mixed breed dog named Willow. Sadly, my grandson Gabriel lives much too far away in Jacksonville with my daughter Lena and her husband, Tony. Thank goodness for Google Hangouts.

Christian education has been a lifelong theme for me. In elementary school that meant traditional Sunday School supplemented by learning about the history and liturgy of the church as a member of the junior altar guild and children's choir. Later in life, it was completing EFM – the Education for Ministry program. In between it was a mix of formal and informal opportunities including being a youth group leader. I've been a member of several different flavors of Episcopal churches – beginning in Florida, to the suburbs of Los Angeles, then to downtown Nashville, and in 1997 to the City of Wilmington where I was thrilled to discover that the Cathedral Church of St. John with its diverse membership and beautiful music was my neighborhood church. When the Cathedral closed, I was pleased to be adopted by SsAM with its commitment to being an inclusive Christian community. It would be a privilege to serve this community as a member of the vestry and continue to support its community advocacy and education ministries.



**QUEON JACKSON**

I am an educator, mentor, business owner and, most important, a husband and father and Follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. I worked as Schoolteacher, Teacher Educator, Headmaster and School Leader in the Boston Public Schools for over 17 years. My expertise includes school improvement in educational issues, classroom teaching and learning, and school leadership. I especially enjoyed my meaningful work as a mentor for youth who come from at risk environments. It is my passion to encourage youth and communities to see hope when it may not be in sight, and serve and support all.

As a business owner, my wife and I created Summer J. Artisan Ice Pops LLC., a company whose name was coined after our daughter, Summer Jackson. The company was inspired to come to fruition after being confronted with the news that a family member had leukemia. It was because of this crisis that as a family we became committed and focused on providing a product that promotes healthy eating and living for all. It is because of this passion and purpose that we created farm fresh fruit ice pops and the rest is history.

We joined SsAM as a family this year as Wilmington has become our new home. I look forward to serving the ministries at Ssam that support Community-based enrichment.



**STEVEN JONES**

Initially Beth and I attended Sts. Andrew and Matthew beginning in 1996. Both our sons were baptized at SsAM by Canon Casson. A while after moving from Delaware to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, we attended Shrewsbury Parish Church in Kennedyville, Maryland. To me what makes SsAM special is its position, initiatives and diversity. This is a faith-driven institution taking action to address community challenges which are also national in scope. I believe SsAM is an important source of the Good News in Wilmington which must be strengthened.

Professionally, I am the Founder and Director of an analytical consultancy specializing in regional economic impact assessments for non-profits. It is in this capacity, along with other insights, that I can offer my talents to assist the Vestry augment the church's financial position, music program, community outreach and its Youth and Young Families initiatives. These are vital programs which have social and spiritual impact. I have worked in a range of fields from the financial industry, to land preservation, to education. I have a BA from Hampshire College and a MS from the University of Delaware. Born in Brooklyn, New York, I served on Trinity Church's: Resources Committee and volunteered at St. Paul's (Chapel) Shelter. I was past director of Project City Kids (New York), served on the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy board (Maryland), and currently serve as an advisor to the Working Harbor Committee (New York).



**SHARON LEYHOW**

I am a “cradle Episcopalian” and attended St. Matthew’s church from the time I moved to the Wilmington area in 1990. I was asked to represent St. Matthew as founding member of Delaware Futures with Trinity Parish. I have continued to attend SsAM since St. Matthew and St. Andrew churches combined. For the last two years, I have been co-chair of SsAM’s Member Development Ministry, a member of the Finance Committee and am serving a 1-year term on the Vestry for a departing vestry member.

I am deeply interested in retaining our current membership and in growing the membership of SsAM to ensure long term stability. The focus of my work with the Member Development Ministry has been to maintain and enhance a welcoming environment for current and potential parishioners to SsAM and to reclaim inactive members. We want to build relations with people inside and outside SsAM by sharing with them the many benefits of being an active member of SsAM.

I have a BA degree in psychology from Smith College in Northampton, MA. and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, D.C. I recently retired from DuPont Legal Department. I serve on several non-profit boards, including: Delaware Hospice (Board Vice -Chair), Trustee for the Loomis Chaffee School, and Board Member for World Affairs Council of Wilmington.



**LINDA WHITEHEAD**

My name is Linda Whitehead and I typically attend the 8:00 am service. I have been attending SsAM for about three years since the Cathedral closed. My father was a Lutheran minister, so I grew up fully immersed in the Lutheran church which has many similarities to the Episcopal Church. About 15 years ago, I was ready to make a change in my spiritual life believing that diversity enriches each of our lives. I went in search of a more diverse church life and found the Cathedral. I attended the Cathedral for over 10 years, serving twice on the Vestry. After the Cathedral closed, it was so refreshing to become part of the vibrant community which is SsAM.

At SsAM, I serve as a lector and attend Environmental Justice meetings. I am passionate about ending racism, stopping climate change and supporting parents and young families. I recently semi-retired. Prior to that, I was VP of Education and Development for an early education company. I was responsible for children’s curriculum and family communications. I’m now a senior advisor to the department working one day a week.

On a personal note, my daughter and son-in-law live in Wilmington. They are expecting their first child in October. I am very excited to become a grandma and will be helping to care for the baby. Longwood Gardens, where my daughter works, is a favorite spot to meet my daughter or friends. Thank you for the opportunity to run for the Vestry.