

2012 Slate of Vestry Candidates

Annual Meeting

January 29, 2012

11:30 AM

Each candidate was asked to answer the following:

1. How do your background, talents and experience qualify you to serve on the Vestry?
2. What do you see as CCC's priorities over the next three years?

The following pages are the candidates responses.

There are five Vestry positions to be filled.

Dave Carleton



After my father passed this summer - I spent some time going through and listening to much of his record (for those of you that remember vinyl) collection and remembering many of the bands he listened to when I was a child. Classics like Stan Kenton, Vaughn Monroe and Anita O'Day (dad was VERY fond of big band music). In the process of hearing the music though, I was also reminded of the essence of music on vinyl, the sounds of the needle hitting the surface, the needle sliding through the "leader" groove that guides it to the start of the music track itself. It is a great sound - sadly, forever lost with the advent of digital music. Think back though to the 2 or 3 seconds of vinyl before the music started to blare...

In any case, the comparison hit me to CCC after a long talk I had with Gary Hall one evening. In my opinion, under the leadership of a new(er) Rector, the church is currently at a place - not unlike a turntable needle - where we are at the beginning of something new and exciting. Change is not only good - it is vital to growth. In the almost 2 years (fact check) we have had Gary as a rector, I have been most impressed with his vision of the future of our church. Children, families, outreach are all vital to the sustained growth and future of this sacred place.

My wife Ann Marie and I have 3 children; Cameron, 11, Christian 9, Charlotte 6. We have been members here for almost ten years and Annie and I have both been very involved in children's programs and their focus and interests almost since day 1. Outside of CCC I own both a creative media boutique, MINDFIELD and Annie and I are both big supporters of the city of Detroit, and over the past 20 years have had a "hobby" of restoring historic buildings downtown. The best of times for the city of Detroit lie ahead of all of us - so I was proud to hear of CCC's new connections to Focus Hope.

I would be excited to be a part of the Vestry at CCC - and would look forward to working alongside Gary, Beth and Joyce as they continue to build a stronger foundation for all members of our church.

Let's imagine that needle being set down to vinyl here at CCC...as the music plays - it's going to be great!



Michael Froehlich

I am very honored to be offered the opportunity to serve on the Vestry by the Nominating Committee.

Christ Church Cranbrook holds a special place in my life. The roots of this important bond were sown in 1975. My mother and father would drive my sister Ursula and me every Sunday, from north Oakland County, so to afford us the privilege to attend CCC Sunday school and prepare us for our confirmation.

My wife of 16 years, Karin and I were married at this wonderful church in 1996. My children Charlotte (15) and Leonard (13) were baptized, at-

tended Sunday school, are now CCC Acolytes and were raised in a bi lingual (German) and culturally open environment fostering kindness, honesty and service to community. These values are taught by parental examples such as involvement and or contribution in SOS, Crossroads, Make a Wish, Haven in Pontiac, and my involvement in the Usher Chore for the past 3 years.

I am the owner and CEO of Elba Laboratories, a Troy, Michigan based pharmaceutical company that I have successfully grown to a profitable and charitable organization for the past 16 years. Its challenges helped galvanize my leadership skills and value of risk to my organization, employees and customers. I routinely ask God for the continued power to lead my family and employees with strength and fortitude, but shrouded in kindness.

Owning a business is a grand responsibility requiring resolve and attention to core values as well as developing and following a strategic plan. If elected to the vestry, I would bring energy for execution of goals and benchmarks set forth in the strategic plan. I pride myself as an effective problem solver and empathetic communicator and leader.

My vision for the next 3 years is to help review, plan and align the CCC budget to spending to improve its balance sheet. I believe a fiscally responsible and successful institution will be an additional "selling point" for increasing the pledge amounts from our congregation as well as attracting new members who value this approach. Oakland County consistently retains its AAA rating and ranks among the top best run counties in the United States because of a realistic and accurate 3 year budget. I feel this is also possible with our church.

I respectfully ask for the consideration of your support of me for a seat on the Vestry.



Susan Varbedian Lucken

What an honor it is to have been nominated for Christ Church Cranbrook's Vestry. My family joined CCC in 1978, and I have been a member ever since. CCC has played a major role in my life as part of many milestones. Christ Church has been the setting for my graduation from Kingswood School, Cranbrook in 1978, my marriage by George Widdifield in 1988, and my mother's funeral in 2003.

I have taken a more active role in the church over the last ten years. I have been a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for 5 years, which has been a most re-

warding experience. I have also made breakfast for our SOS guests and helped with Festival of Gifts. I volunteered at the Gleaner's Food Bank, assisted with the Community Garden, maintaining and delivering vegetables, and became a Lector and Eucharistic Minister last spring. I find that as I'm getting older, I am more aware of how blessed my family is, and as a result, I am more drawn to the church and all it has to offer.

I graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and have been employed at William Beaumont Hospital for over 28 years. I have been a staff nurse, a Utilization Management Nurse, a Discharge Planner, a Care Coordinator, an Appeals/Reimbursement nurse and a teacher/preceptor to new nurses.

In the community, I was an Active Member of the Junior League of Birmingham for ten years and remain a Sustaining Member. That experience introduced me to volunteerism and various leadership opportunities at the age of 23. One of the most gratifying experiences in that capacity was Reading for the Blind. Additionally, I have volunteered at the Community House and held various leadership positions at Beaumont.

My husband, Tim, and I live in Birmingham with my son, Griffin, who is a senior at Seaholm and headed for Michigan State in the fall. He is also in his 3rd year serving as an Acolyte.

I feel that my background in the above areas qualifies me to serve on the Vestry because of my enthusiasm, determination, organizational skills and compassion from my many years as a nurse. I am an approachable person and would love to hear how we can make CCC even better than it already is!

I think that CCC's priorities over the next three years should include financial stability, recruiting new members, taking care of current members and continuing our efforts with outreach in the community. It would be a privilege to serve this parish and to play a role in its continued success. I would cherish the opportunity to give back to this wonderful institution that has given so much to me throughout my life.

Bruce Peterson



I have been a member of Christ Church Cranbrook since 2002, when my wife, Kimberly, and I and our three sons (Erik, 26; Nils, 22; and Andrew, 17) moved to Birmingham from Washington, D.C. I was born and educated in Chicago and am 55 years old. Having been raised in a Swedish Baptist church, I was drawn to the Episcopal Church by its beautiful music, liturgy and traditions as a young adult and have worshipped in Episcopal churches since 1982.

I was appointed to the Vestry in 2010 to fill an unexpired term and am honored to have been nominated to be a candidate for election to the Vestry. I am a lector in the Lector / Eucharistic Minister ministry. The music, preaching and teaching ministries of CCC are very important to me, and I strongly support CCC's focus on youth and outreach ministries. My wife, Kimberly leads the new CCC flower ministry.

I am active in the leaderships and boards of a number of non-profit, educational and cultural organizations. Among other things, I have been involved in fund-raising for the United Way and serve on the Board and Executive Committee of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Board of Governors of Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Board of Trustees of Cranbrook Educational Community. I also have taught part-time at the University of Michigan Law School.

I am employed as General Counsel (chief legal officer) of DTE Energy and work in downtown Detroit. Previously, I was a partner in law firm in Washington, D.C. and earlier a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State.



Eric Plowman

I began attending Christ Church Cranbrook with my wife Mary ten years ago and we have been here ever since. Mary's family anchored by her mother Dorothy Dann have been attending Christ Church Cranbrook since they moved to Michigan in the late 1960's. By the spring of 2003 I was confirmed as an Episcopalian as I was raised as a Methodist. In June of 2003 Mary and I were married by Father Cory Randall and in 2004 we were blessed with our daughter Molly now age seven. Again, it was Father Cory that baptized Molly in March of 2005 near the beautiful high altar and I hope that Father Cory will be there when Molly enjoys her first communion within the next couple of years. The most special moments of my personal life have happened at

Christ Church and I would like to serve this special place as a vestry member.

I have been an active member of the usher core at Christ Church for several years and it has been a pleasure to greet and assist each Sunday morning. I would consider it an honor to support the Rev. Gary Hall, the vestry and the parishioners of Christ Church Cranbrook. I believe that my experience and leadership will be an asset to Christ Church Cranbrook.

Professionally, I manage a team of sales consultants that focus on assisting hospital systems make educated decisions around business process and technology. My experience working with our customers and assisting them to make sound decisions uniquely positions me to do the same for Christ Church Cranbrook. As a member of my company's senior management team, I also understand the value of working as one to ensure the best outcome for the parishioners and the church. I believe in being candid even when the news is not what everyone is hoping it will be.

My background, talents and experience qualify me to serve the Christ Church Cranbrook Vestry in many ways. I have spent my entire career selling technology and services to a wide array of businesses and organizations in the Metro Detroit community. My experience from performing countless analysis and consulting services has exposed me to being able to use data to make excellent decisions. In addition I have been part of my company's management team which promotes working as a team and developing people. I believe that my experience working with other teammates will serve me well as I begin work with the vestry and members of the congregation to tackle difficult challenges coming in Christ Church Cranbrook's future. Finally, the most important part of my background is that I have always been in customer service. Using my experience in customer service has allowed me to look at decisions from the customer's, or in this case, the congregation's point of view.

Christ Church Cranbrook's priorities over the next three years are building excellent children's programs, fiscal responsibility and increasing membership. I believe that building excellent children's programs is the key to increasing and maintaining membership at Christ Church Cranbrook. Families will attend when the children are having fun and learning. The competition for a family's time between having two working parents and other programs puts the church in a position to have to deliver to the children. Finally making responsible fiscal decisions will allow the church to use its gifts to continue excellent outreach and educational programs.



Linda Popoff

It is an honor to be a candidate for Vestry of Christ Church Cranbrook. Michael and I have been members of the parish for over 30 years. We have two grown children, Andrew and Alexandra, both of whom were baptized here (our daughter by Gary during his initial tenure), attended Sunday School and were confirmed here. Alex was an acolyte and on behalf of CCC, she participated in a mission to Uganda to provide solar lights to schools and churches. I was also confirmed at Christ Church Cranbrook.

The church is a central part of my life. I have remained steadfastly dedicated in the face a

number of challenges over the years. I am a member of the Altar Guild and currently serve on its board. I participate in the CCC social group, Fiction Fun and attend to the pamphlet racks, as well as many other activities.

I have a Bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and a Master's degree from the University of Michigan. I recently retired after 23 years from JPMorgan Chase where I served in the International Division as a political and economic analyst, in the Private Client group managing the incentive compensation program and most recently as head of the Michigan Commercial Banking Marketing group. I am currently employed as Administrative Manager by Vanguard Family Health Care, PC, a family practice medical clinic on the eastside of Detroit.

I have worked in the City of Detroit for over 30 years and I see its revitalization as critical to the health of its citizens and businesses and the health of all of us in the metropolitan area. I concur with Gary's focus on embracing the city and dedicating ourselves to restoring it and its schools to renewed vitality.

In order to accomplish this and our many other ministries, a fiscally sound CCC is imperative. This includes continuing good stewardship of the legacy in our care and gradually and continuously increasing our economic capacity for impact in our sectors of influence.

Our children are our future and the future of the church. Giving them a strong education and nurturing them in the church is our primary duty. CCC has a vibrant and robust church school, and this remains an ongoing priority.

Christ Church Cranbrook is a great source of community and spiritual strength. It is an honor to be part of the church and I look forward to contributing in any way I can.

Brian Sarver



My wife and I have been members of Christ Church Cranbrook for 14 years. It has been said many times, but it is a great honor to be nominated for a position on the vestry of Christ Church Cranbrook. Having grown up in the area, Christ Church Cranbrook and the Cranbrook Schools were discussed among the family with much pride.

With over 22 years of experience in commercial and residential building I was asked five years ago by Tom Roth, my mentor, to be on the Building and Grounds Committee. When Tom stepped down three years ago as chair, I became chair of this committee and continue today. We have completed significant restoration efforts while staying on budget and keeping with the integrity of the church. During this process I have grown to love not only the brick and mortar of Christ Church Cranbrook, but the family bond that comes with the experiences of being on such a committee.

In 1978 I attended Grand Valley State Collage and went on to pursue my own businesses. I have co-owned a restaurant for the past 25 years in East Lansing, until it was sold last year. Concurrently, I have been in the commercial and residential building business, and have been with Templeton Building Company for the past 11 years, running their Service Division.

My wife (Christine) and I have been married for 13 years. We have two children McKenzie (11) and Ian (9) who have attended Little Lambs, been baptized, had made their First Communion, and currently attend Sunday School Classes at Christ Church Cranbrook.

I would like to see Christ Church Cranbrook become known more as community friendly and grow with parishioners.

I feel a deep commitment to Christ Church Cranbrook and look forward to serving as a member on the vestry.



Angela Spencer

Thank you for the opportunity to be a candidate for the vestry.

My faith in God has been growing my entire life. I was raised Catholic. My husband and I joined Christ Church Cranbrook in 2000. We have been married for 11 years, when we got engaged we came from different denominations. We decided to pick a church “in the middle” that could fulfill both of our spiritual needs and would help guide us through life. We really felt at home at Christ Church Cranbrook. We attended Alpha and we were confirmed into the Episcopal Church.

I graduated from Purdue University and am a commercial interior designer. My work has always involved teamwork, hard work, dedication, fresh ideas and prospective. My experience has been to collaborate with clients and my co-workers and execute a plan.

We have three children. They all have been baptized at CCC, attended Little Lambs and attend Sunday school. It has been very heartwarming to watch our family grow spiritually and we are committed to the future of Christ Church Cranbrook.

Through my experience with the Sunday school transitions and the Little Lamb’s transitions that took place a few years ago, I have a respect for the vestry and have seen a glimpse of how crucial the role of the vestry truly is. My goals for the next few years would be to see our membership grow and also help with the on-going efforts to encourage the integration of the young families in Sunday school with the rest of the church with both church services and ministry.

My current ministry with the church is my role of raising my young children in the faith as well as teaching Sunday school. I feel I have more to give and it would be an honor to be a part of the vestry and serve any way I can.