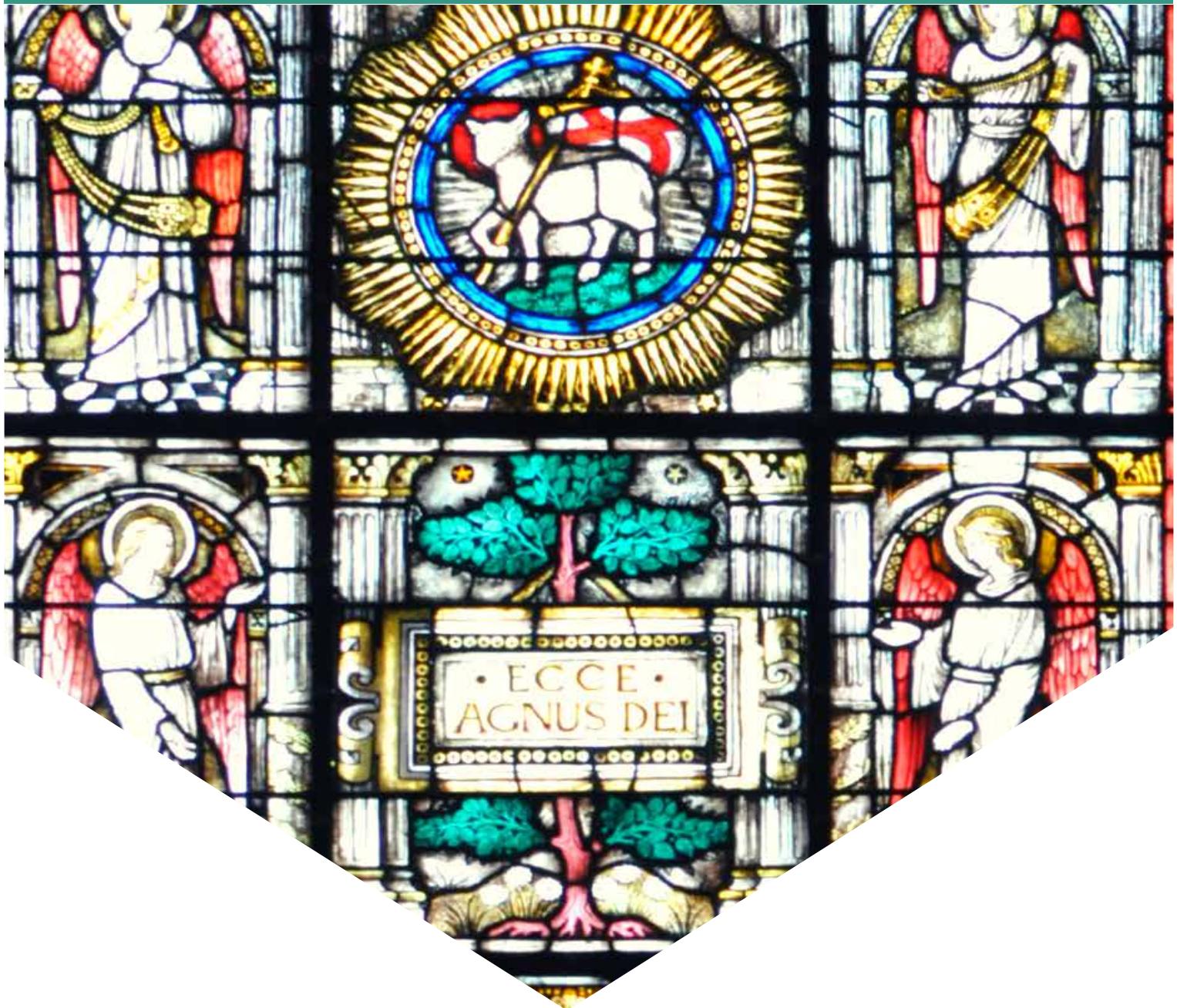


SAINT PHILIP'S CHURCH



Class of 2024

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***NOMINATIONS***  
for the Vestry

# *From the Nominating Committee*

February 7th, 2021



Dear fellow St. Philippians,

The Vestry Nominating Committee was blessed to receive 15 nominations for the four openings we will have at the parish annual meeting on March 7th. The nominations were a diverse mix of women and men, representing a wide variety of ages and including members from many of our different lay ministries at St. Philip's. The nominees were exceptionally qualified and all are beloved members of our church family.

This year we have continued to refine the nomination process in order to best serve the congregation and to address the particular needs of the Vestry based on the vacancies that will be created by those who have completed their three-year term of service. The committee did not take lightly our charge to select the next slate of members for the Vestry from this impressive list. The process was constructed to prayerfully and thoughtfully determine who are the right four people to serve at this time. This was a Spirit-led process, executed by the Vestry and blessed by the Clergy.

First, all suggestions were vetted based on the qualifications listed in our by-laws. Then, through prayer and review of the nominees' current and past leadership roles as well as their God-given gifts and talents, we narrowed the list down to a handful of candidates, who then filled out a questionnaire and met in person with the entire committee for a question-and-answer session. Finally, our team spent more time in prayer and unanimously recommended four nominees to the Vestry for approval, who in turn unanimously confirmed the committee's recommendation. Those four nominees are presented on the following pages.

We appreciate all who took the time to submit a name and all who joined with us in prayer over this process. Going forward, we will continue to encourage any and all parishioners who feel led to nominate someone to do so. We value the input of every member of this community, and we want this to continue to be a process that involves the entire congregation.

Faithfully,

Martha Freshley Todd Brown Guy Gottshalk Reid Davis  
Sam Robinson Connie Rink Bill Warlick Robby Marion

# VESTRY NOMINEES

Class of 2024

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## JASON AYERS

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**What has been your involvement in ministries at St. Philip's?**

Current: Usher, acolyte mentor, Friday morning men's Bible study, Tea Room volunteer

Past: Sunday School teacher, couples small group

**If applicable, what has been your involvement in ministries at other churches?**

I started attending St. Philip's as a young adult. Prior to that I participated in youth ministry programs at other churches.

**What would be your reason/desire for serving on the Vestry?**

St. Philip's has been a blessing to my family and me for over 20 years. As newlyweds, we officially joined the church, and I was confirmed. My wife and I attended church regularly, taught Sunday School, and joined a St. Philip's sponsored young couples cell group. At this point my spiritual journey really took off and I grew closer to God while also developing a true church family, although it wasn't until recently that I really began to realize the significance of St. Philip's in my life. Part of this was the void the coronavirus created when fellowship at St. Philip's was thrown askew. However, it's really what St. Philip's has done in my children's lives that has been the most amazing. My oldest is completing his senior year of high school and preparing for his next stage of life in college. Hearing his testimony and knowing how St. Philip's has helped develop his Christian faith has concretized the role of our church to me in our family's life. For these reasons I have felt the desire to do more for my church and to give back for all it has done for us. Although I have been involved in many ministries at St. Philip's, I feel like serving on the Vestry would be a different, challenging, and inspirational next chapter in serving both God and our church family.

**What gifts, interests, and concerns would you bring to your service on the Vestry?**

Until recently, I had never really considered my spiritual gifts or how I could best serve the church. If there was a need or I was asked, I would fill a given role. However, thanks be to God this past fall the Reverend Andrew O'Dell led a spiritual gifts retreat for my Friday morning men's Bible study group. At this retreat, I was able to discern my gifts, personal style, and ministry passion. It became apparent that I was task oriented and that one of my spiritual gifts was "Helps." Some of the distinctive characteristics of this gift are serving behind the scenes and dealing with the practical aspects of the church while freeing other ministries to fully blossom, all of which I believe are consistent with serving on the Vestry. Other interests of mine include apologetics and the study of the historical accuracy of biblical texts. Having served in various ministries at St. Philip's, I also feel that I am well-rounded and knowledgeable of how others are working every day to spread the gospel of our Lord, no matter the role.

**Write about your life's spiritual journey (or spiritual autobiography), including when and how you came to know Jesus Christ personally as your Savior and Lord.**

I do not remember the exact age, but as a pre-teen I attended a church-led summer day camp. While on a field trip to a remote swimming lake, one of the campers approached a counselor and said she wanted to be saved. I listened to the counselor praying with the camper and knew right then and there I wanted Christ as my savior as well. I told no one but silently prayed to God, asking for forgiveness of my sins and seeking a personal relationship with Him. I grew up in Hartsville and Florence and my parents divorced at an early age and both remarried. My mother died when I was only 14. Through these difficult times, I attended many different churches, including Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist denominations. Even though I had come to know God several years prior, my spiritual walk through high school and college was neither consistent nor ideal. At first, joining St. Philip's was more about trying to decipher and navigate a worship service that was somewhat foreign to me. Today, however, the liturgy and service have become

fundamental in my relationship with God. Through Bible study, fellowship, and lots of prayer, I know I am now on the path God has chosen for me, but still evermore growing in my faith and trust in God.



## ALLEN GANTT FOLLINE III

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### **What has been your involvement in ministries at St. Philip's?**

I was blessed to be invited to serve on the Home Missions Team this past year, and have witnessed some amazing work and action by the members on the team. We have a great time together, and it reminds me of a strong family that laughs together, breaks bread together, prays together, sings together, and serves together, all for the glorification of Christ. The work, by the way, is not very taxing or overburdensome, and it really brings a great deal of joy. I've participated on lots of different types of teams during my 51 years of life, but I have to say the Home Missions Team has carried the day, and has brought real meaning and purpose because it is modeled after Christ whom we love, and He loves us.

### **If applicable, what has been your involvement in ministries at other churches?**

I was an acolyte and crucifer as a child in the church where I grew up in Columbia. I currently serve on the board of St. Alban's Anglican Chapel at The Citadel, my alma mater (Class of '91), with a mission to inspire and spread the Good News to cadets and college-age students so they might come to know the Lord. I believe Jesus, The Christ, is the foundation for everything in life, and we want to equip young cadets and students with the knowledge and love of the One who created all that ever was, is, and will ever be.

### **What would be your reason/desire for serving on the Vestry?**

I believe with all of my being and with all the sincerity I can muster that Jesus Christ is the only source and foundation for all that is good, righteous, and joyful, and that He is the True source of fulfilment and meaning in our lives. Therefore, I want to support St. Philip's Church and be a

servant on a team that assists our remarkable leadership, including the rector, clergy, and staff assembled at this time and place to spread the Good News. We've been called to be stewards as living stones, and we ought to always be astonished and moved at the invitation to participate in this grand story.

### **What gifts, interests, and concerns would you bring to your service on the Vestry?**

I believe I can offer spiritual gifts, prayer, my experience serving on the St. Albans' Anglican Chapel Society Board for the past four years (providing support for the Reverend Robert Sturdy as Chaplain over at The Citadel), and my experience being part of the Home Missions Team this past year. I've served as an usher for several years as well as a greeter, and I've learned the new protocols put in place during the past year with COVID-19 considerations. In addition, I could offer some insights that might be useful from my 20 years of experience as a commercial real estate appraiser. I started out as a commercial real estate property manager in 1997 with Colliers International and also sold and leased commercial and industrial property. I have now been in the that industry for 20 years. I formed my own company in February of 2015, and I've been very blessed by God who has provided a stable base of work and clients over the years. I think I could offer some helpful insights from my business experience and ministry experiences that would be useful in support of St. Philip's Church as a Vestry member.

### **Write about your life's spiritual journey (or spiritual autobiography), including when and how you came to know Jesus Christ personally as your Savior and Lord.**

I grew up in the church as my grandfather was a Presbyterian minister, and so my mother had us in services almost every Sunday. My father's family was Episcopalian, so when our family moved to Columbia from Charlotte in 1976-77, we joined Trinity Cathedral where he had grown up. I served as an acolyte and crucifer along with my brother, and my sister was in the choir. My mother would eventually head up the newcomer committee at our church and, needless to say, we didn't miss many services. My wife Danielle and I moved to Charleston in 1997 and we attended Church of the Holy Cross on Sullivan's Island when our children were younger. Later, Danielle and I went through the Alpha program at St. Philip's Church in 2008-2009 as she was a Methodist and we had been attending the church for several months.

We settled on joining once the program was complete. My wife was confirmed and I was also reaffirmed by Bishop Mark Lawrence on a Sunday back in 2009, and we have been members ever since.

I would say that I was very blessed to have parents that brought me up in the church. I still remember my mother's voice singing to me as a small child, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong." It's simple, but it's foundational experiences like this that I'll always remember from early childhood. I was blessed to have been baptized by my grandfather and confirmed at 13. I served as an acolyte and crucifer at Trinity, and I attended services at Summerall Chapel when I was a cadet at The Citadel. I've always held a deep, personal conviction and belief in Jesus Christ, and my beliefs have never wavered. However, I think our Rector is spot on when he talks about how some of us may go through periods of time when it feels like we're going through the motions, and even though you've been raised in the church your whole life, you never really experience the deeper and abiding faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. I would say that has been true in my life, but the groundwork had been laid for me as a child and young adult. Later on in my life I was given a framed print of Summerall Chapel by one of my mother's best friends, Lucy Edmunds, and the engraved excerpt on the front entrance of the chapel states, "Remember Now Thy Creator in the Days of Thy Youth." The print hangs in our living room and I pass by it every day. In addition, when we moved into our house in 2011 the interior decorator we hired placed a framed copy of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 that my wife had purchased years ago, and after about 1,000 times passing by that famous excerpt I felt a calling to memorize those words from Paul. It seemed as though in the last decade or so someone was tapping on my shoulder or chasing me down, as Marc Boutan describes the scene.

My real breakthrough came when I began attending John Kerrison's Bible study on Wednesday mornings several years ago, and I've developed a deep and abiding faith and fellowship with a family of believers. I've also experienced this from being a member of St. Philip's Church. Soon after I began attending Brian McGreevy's C.S. Lewis classes and also the Rector's forums when I could attend. All of these experiences were game changers. I bought a leather-bound ESV Study Bible and I'm now about half-way through reading the entire Bible for the first time. Those breakthroughs caused me to begin reflecting on wonderful memories of seeing my father, now deceased,

sitting on the outside edge of the pew our family had grown accustomed to occupying for so many years at the church where I grew up. I thought about how some of the most joyful times I've had were visiting my grandparents in Nashville for Christmas every year where my grandfather led his congregation, and being surrounded by family, singing together, laughing, and just being a loving family in those days of joy and peace. I thought about my dad's profession. He was a foundational engineer, a geo-technical expert who knew all of the soils, but most importantly he knew where the bedrock was located. Perhaps unknowingly, he had been directing the attention of his children, my brother, my sister, and me, to the One person we could build our house on: to Jesus Christ. I want to pass on the faith to my kids, and to all of our kids, and to all of the generations to come.



FRANCIS  
CORDES  
FORD IV

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**What has been your involvement in ministries at St. Philip's?**

I have served as an acolyte, an acolyte master, and an usher, and I have attended various Bible studies through the years.

**If applicable, what has been your involvement in ministries at other churches?**

I have not been involved in ministries at other churches, though I attended Shandon UMC in Columbia with my wife Emily during law school 2000-2003.

**What would be your reason/desire for serving on the Vestry?**

If I were to serve on the Vestry, my reasons would essentially be two-fold: first, to support and strengthen our church's mission to call each other and those in our community into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and second, to support and strengthen the sound administration of our parish and diocese.

**What gifts, interests, and concerns would you bring to your service on the Vestry?**

I have practiced law for over seventeen years both locally and in other states through my firm, primarily as a litigator. I have served on non-profit Boards locally, primarily at Porter-Gaud (for twelve years) and the Country Club of Charleston (for ten years). I have been Chair of the Porter-Gaud Foundation for the past four years and was President of the CCC for two years. This experience has placed me in leadership and fundraising roles of two non-profit businesses, and we have achieved significant successes in advancing the mission of each in my time. These experiences may be valuable on the Vestry. I am interested in growing our community of believers and strengthening each other's faith, both to increase the quality of this life and so that we might have a deeper sense of the promise of life ever-lasting through Jesus Christ. I am concerned, among other things, with the pending lawsuit, which needs to resolve for the sake of all involved. While our mission can go on without our historic building and grounds and other property at issue, our earthly mission would surely be damaged and set back without them. They are a bright beacon of the strength and beauty of our faith, a welcoming window for those who are curious and seeking answers, and so are worthy of our investment in the legal process.

**Write about your life's spiritual journey (or spiritual autobiography), including when and how you came to know Jesus Christ personally as your Savior and Lord.**

I grew up in the Church and have long known Jesus Christ as my Savior, though I can't tell you a single moment when this knowledge crystallized. Indeed, the journey continues, and my need to continue reading, learning, and communicating the Gospel and its history has never been greater. As a flawed human, I fall short of the mark often. However, over time, thought, and prayer, this conclusion seems inescapable. I look to the gross political and social unrest of our time and throughout history, and believe that if we each loved God above all else and loved each other as much or even more than ourselves as Jesus instructed, we would find our society at the moment of resolving so many crises and injustices.



**SUZANNE  
MCCORD**

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**What has been your involvement in ministries at St. Philip's?**

Current : Co-lead a women's Bible study, manage the urgent prayer group (a text group that receives urgent prayer requests and commits to pray), "Perky People" coffee brewing team, World Missions Committee, co-lead the Haiti Partnership with my husband Gerry, teach in the elementary Sunday school class, co-lead the "Mission Moments" with Tammy Gottshalk in children's church, Rapid Response team, prayer teams during church services, and Compassion Committee (deliver meals).

Past: Stephen Ministry, ECW (on the board for many years and president for a year), serving in the Tea Room and other ECW activities, teaching several adult Sunday school classes, soaking prayer teams. I was employed by the church for about 6 years, starting as a liaison for parents with youth groups, then more communications/office/coordination help. Later I served as front desk secretary for a few years until 2011.

**If applicable, what has been your involvement in ministries at other churches?**

I am active in Cursillo and have attended Bible studies at other churches in the Charleston area. I have not been a member of any other church as an adult.

**What would be your reason/desire for serving on the Vestry?**

My main reason for serving on the Vestry would be to serve my parish, if it is God's will for me to serve in this way.

Another reason would be to prayerfully represent my unique perspective on the Vestry. I think it is helpful for the Vestry to have all ages, backgrounds, and points of view represented in order to help make the best and most balanced decisions for the whole church. The members of the Vestry can act as the eyes, ears, and heartbeat of the church.

## **What gifts, interests, and concerns would you bring to your service on the Vestry?**

It has been a while since I took a spiritual gifts survey (I would love to take Andrew's class sometime) but when I did back in the early 90s, two of my highest scores were Faith and Exhortation.

At 61, now more than ever, I have faith in Christ and His sovereignty over all things, but I am also more aware than ever of not knowing all the answers. Sort of like, "the more you know, the more you know how little you really know." This is the main reason I turn to prayer. Oh what a privilege it is to take it all to God in prayer. I truly believe that there are spiritual battles being waged and we need to fight in prayer first, then by our actions, and lastly by words—only when asked.

The gift of Exhortation is mainly to encourage believers to mature in Christ and to grow spiritually. I think this is why I like to teach Sunday School or a Bible study. Ever since hearing a teaching on the importance of Barnabas, I have wanted to be an encourager like him. I feel like I need to get better at both exhortation and encouraging, but I think both could be useful to the Vestry. I think I have the gift of mercy, too. It helps me to see both sides of a position because I can put myself into someone else's shoes.

Other gifts I have that may be of more practical use to the Vestry are some clerical skills. I was a church secretary/office manager for about 12 years. I have a master's from the Citadel in elementary counseling and I was a school counselor for 6 years. I am now retired so have more flexibility.

Concerns: I am not good with numbers, but I can see the big picture and I can figure out the tithe. :) I cannot remember names until I really get to know someone.

## **Write about your life's spiritual journey (or spiritual autobiography), including when and how you came to know Jesus Christ personally as your Savior and Lord.**

I was raised in the Methodist Church. There was no question—we would be at 11:00 a.m. service and youth group at 5:00, and then after supper we would attend the 7:00 p.m. Sunday service. I was in the choir and was confirmed in the 6th grade. As a junior in high school I was a "Jesus Freak" after I attended Jesus '76. Clearly I was a very active and committed Christian, but I did not really ever study the word or pray except when I got in bed, and I usually fell asleep before I finished. I was not

truly grounded. I was saved and I believed, but it was more social than spiritual.

I went to college and could not find a Christian group to join—I was shy. I joined a sorority and focused on dating like everyone else. In the summer of '78 while back at my home church, I attended an event in Savannah and received the gift of the Holy Spirit, but did not really understand what had happened.

Back at college, I started dating a non-Christian my junior year whom I married a year after college. After 5 years of not attending any church, we got pregnant with our first son in 1986 and we joined St. Philip's. Unfortunately my husband never came back to church with me, and we were divorced in 1995. I became very involved in the church. My faith had been renewed and I began to learn more about the Holy Spirit. I have been so blessed by so many wonderful learning experiences at St. Philip's. St. Philip's really has been my family since 1986. My family and I have been fed physically, spiritually, and relationally.

My faith grew stronger during the trials of being a single mom, getting my master's, and working part-time. God answered my prayers for a man whom I could trust, by sending me Gerry. We were married in 1999. My two sons both have had their struggles. My youngest almost died in a car accident in 2011. Through the challenges, God taught me that when I hold on tightly to anything other than Him (first it was my marriage, second it was my children) it will probably end in disappointment at the very least. It is so easy to let the things we love so much become like false gods to us. I had to learn to put God first and learned that I can trust Him with the people and things that I love, because He loves them even more than I do. This was a big revelation and relief for me. Now I know to regularly ask God to search my heart, to test me, and know if there is any wrong thing in my heart. And if there is, ask Him to set it straight and cleanse my heart. This is a daily struggle that keeps me humble. I often fail to seek his will, but he gives me new mercies every day. He is so patient.

I have made many big mistakes. But that makes me even more thankful that I am cleansed by the blood of Christ.



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

St. Philip's is an evangelical parish in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Our worship, which is steeped in The Book of Common Prayer, is intended first and foremost to glorify God in Jesus Christ, and we stand in that theological tradition which owes a debt of gratitude to the great reformers of the English Reformation. With them, we ascribe to the following:

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

A belief in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three distinct Persons co-equal in Glory and co-eternal in majesty and of one substantial Godhead, such that there are not three gods but one God.

A belief in the Holy Scriptures as divine revelation, inerrantly inspired (theopneustos) by God, carrying the full measure of His authority, containing all things necessary to salvation, and to be submitted to in all matters of faith and practice of life.

A belief in the One Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ, who in His person is both fully God and fully man; of one substance with the Father as regards His Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards His manhood.

A belief in the perfect obedience of Christ, His true and actual suffering, His substitutionary and atoning death on the cross, and His bodily resurrection and ascension as the only means given for our salvation and reconciliation with God.

A belief in faith alone as the only grounds for the merits of Christ being imputed to us for our justification before God (justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone).

A belief in the consummate return of Jesus Christ in glory to judge the living and the dead, and a belief in the bodily resurrection of the dead and their entrance into either eternal damnation or everlasting blessedness.

A belief in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church as those souls that have been redeemed entirely by the work of Christ and called out of bondage into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of error into truth, out of death into eternal life.

A belief that the visible Church is best organized under the historic and biblical offices of Bishop, Presbyter, and Deacon; and that the Church exists to worship the Triune God and to lift up the Savior Jesus Christ before all people through the faithful preaching and teaching of the Gospel, through prayer, and through the faithful administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion or the Eucharist).

A belief in the historic Nicene and Apostles' creeds of the Church as accurate representations of the essence of the Christian faith, and in the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Anglican Church as a coherent and concise expression of Anglican doctrine.

Further:

We believe Christians are called beyond mere church membership to the lifelong journey of discipleship, learning to faithfully live what God has revealed about us (Matthew 7:24-29, Mark 8:34-36, Galatians 5:22);

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of St. Philip's Church.

We believe all people are created in the image of God, who wonderfully and immutably creates each person as genetically male or female. These two distinct complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is in conflict with this created-ness and is inconsistent with our beliefs;

In the Church, we believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in Holy Matrimony, a single, exclusive, lifelong union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-9). This covenanted relationship signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, reconciling and re-uniting two complements.

God's good intention for us is that sexual intimacy is to occur only between a man and a woman who have entered into this marriage covenant. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) For the blessing and protection of the bond of marriage, our families, and particularly our children, God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage (as previously defined as being between a man and a woman);

Because God is the one who has ordained and ordered marriage according to His good purposes, the Parish will only recognize and solemnize a marriage that is between a man and a woman. Further, the clergy and staff of this Parish shall only serve in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. The facilities and property of the Parish shall only host weddings between one man and one woman;

Finally:

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible is the trustworthy Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of humankind. For purposes of the Parish, in faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Bishop is the final interpretive authority on matters of doctrine and their application;

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the Parish as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to both parishioners and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Parish in any capacity, or who serve as leaders, agree to abide by this Statement of Faith. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22.);

We celebrate and stand for the unchanging truth of the gospel as centered in the grace of Jesus Christ, in the gift of biblical revelation, and the moral vision expressed in historic, Anglican Christianity.

*The foregoing Statement of Faith was adopted by unanimous Resolution of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church at a duly called meeting of the Vestry held on April 3, 2018.*

# *Current Vestry*

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*"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:43-45



## **OUTGOING CLASS OF 2021**

Martha Freshley, *Senior Warden*  
Reid Davis, Jr.  
Addison (Guv) Gottshalk III  
Samuel Robinson, Jr.

## **CLASS OF 2022**

Todd Brown, *Junior Warden*  
Elizabeth Hagood  
Connie Rink  
William (Bill) Warlick

## **CLASS OF 2023**

Joanna Ghegan  
Robert (Bob) Kunes  
Robert (Robbie) Marion  
Kathryn (Kat) Phillips