



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
20 MILTON STREET • WILLIAMSVILLE NEW YORK 14221
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Warden and Vestry Biographical Information
Annual Parish Election
Sunday, January 25, 2026

Vote for one (1) Warden for a two-year term.

Vote for four (4) Vestry members.

The three candidates receiving the most votes will serve three year terms.

The candidate receiving the fourth most votes will serve the unexpired two year term.

Deposit your completed ballot in the ballot box in the Reception Room prior
to the Annual Meeting and Election,
no later than 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Mailed ballots must be received by Saturday, January 24, 2026.

**Candidate for Warden
Dennis McCoy**



Family: Beth McCoy (deceased May 12, 2023); Abbey McCoy

Occupation: retired attorney; retired adjunct professor of law

Participation at Calvary:

Calvary – Vestry member, Stewardship Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, Fundraising Committee
Prior Parish – St. Paul’s, Rochester, NY – Vestry member, junior and senior warden; lector, Eucharistic minister, usher; Church School; Stewardship Committee

Community/Diocese Volunteer Work:

Diocese of Rochester – Stewardship Committee; Standing Committee
Legal Aid Society Board of Directors, president
New York State Bar Association – Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law section – Executive Committee; section chair; Insurance Committee, member, chair. CPLR Committee
Visually Impaired Advancement – Board of Directors
University at Buffalo Law School – Dean’s Advisory Council
Water for South Sudan – Board of Directors
The Corporation for the Relief of Widows and Children of Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New York – Board of Directors

• **What from your life experience can you apply to your work as Warden?**

During my two years on the Calvary Vestry, I found that the issues being faced by the parish were similar but also quite different from those I had encountered at St. Paul’s in Rochester. There has been a sea change in the Episcopal Church in the past thirty years. My prior experience with Episcopal Church entities, parishes and dioceses, as well as my experience with non-profit organizations, helped me in understanding the financial and legal issues being faced by Calvary in the present moment. Ultimately, the decisions have to be made in good faith and informed by our Christian teachings. I think my past life experiences shape the way I look at issues and help me to identify the different ways in which those issues can be addressed.

My legal training and experience also comes in handy from time to time.

• **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term as Warden?**

These past two years, I worked on the Stewardship Committee. The committee worked on the annual pledge ingathering and also began the implementation of a year-round program for stewardship at Calvary. I want to continue my work there. Apart from my significant involvement in stewardship, I am interested in everything that Calvary does, and as I am now retired, I have more time to participate. I helped out where I could on various occasions, including helping with ashes to go, the chicken dinner sales, the parish yard sale, including the preview night party and planning the Big Band Dinner Dance, among other things.

• **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**

Since we became members of Calvary, my family has been on the receiving end of various ministries. Because of the difficulties of getting to church and participating in the life of the parish, due to my wife’s medical condition, we have been connected to the community through the wonderful work of Calvary’s ordained and lay ministers. We have received Communion at our home, received meals, visits, communications, cards and prayers from members of Calvary. Beth and I would often talk about how much this meant to us, as we struggled with some difficult times. More recently, I have been the recipient of the

warmth and generosity of many parishioners as I recovered from my recent surgery in December. Whatever else happens in the future, this essential quality of Calvary should be preserved.

I would like to see more little feet running up and down the aisles. We have been making progress in this regard. I would like to see that progress continue. Related to this, I would like to see a youth program for middle school and high school age children be developed.

An expanding parish may require additional staff at some point. This will require additional revenue. While the annual pledging continues to increase, albeit slowly, it may not be sufficient. I would like to see the parish develop other recurring revenue streams.

**Candidate for Vestry
Helen Cochran**



Family:

Occupation: I retired from senior leadership roles in media and technology for such firms as The Globe and Mail (Canada’s National Newspaper), CTV (Canadian Television), and Media Sales Plus. After retiring from the corporate world in 2019, I served as store manager for Patchwork Garden and online sales manager for Aurora Sewing Center before “finally” retiring in December 2025.

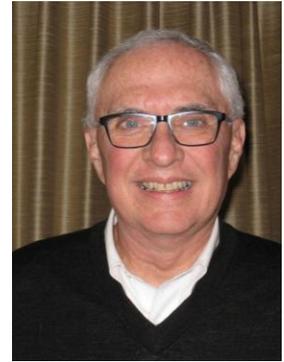
Participation at Calvary or previous parish membership: I am a fairly new member of Calvary, having officially joined in November 2024 and confirmed at St. Paul’s Cathedral in March 2025. Since joining, I have been an active member of the Altar Guild and have volunteered for Ashes to Go, the bake sale at the garage sale, and supported a variety of ministries including School 30, Friends of the Night, Stitch Buffalo, Great Music and Common Grounds’ Water for South Sudan. In 2026, I will represent Calvary at the Williamsville Business Association as part of Calvary’s communication committee and will start working on a project to digitize the church’s historical records so they can be more easily searched and accessed. These experiences have provided opportunities to serve, connect, and support the life and missions of the parish.

Community/Diocese Volunteer Work: I participated in the discernment process for the selection of our next bishop and have volunteered with Gerards Place residential community, their hot meals program, and their clothing/food bank. I have also contributed to numerous sewing and quilting projects that provide quilts, pillowcases, and other items to children, veterans, and those in need. I have served as an active member of several chambers of commerce in addition to serving on regional and national industry boards as I strive to use my skills and experiences to benefit the broader community.

- **What from your life experience can you apply to your work on the Vestry?**
Much of my professional life was spent in senior leadership roles in media and technology for complex organizations with diverse cultures which required careful stewardship of resources, collaborative decision-making, thoughtful use of technology, and building and encouraging teams to achieve shared missions. Over time, I learned that healthy organizations flourish when diverse voices are welcomed, the future is approached with courage and care, and decisions are grounded in shared values and mission. Experience in strategic planning, guiding change during challenging times, and making decisions through active listening would be offered to the Vestry so that decisions are rooted in Calvary’s traditions while encouraging and supporting its growing and evolving ministries.
- **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term on Vestry?**
I am drawn to ministries that reflect Calvary’s commitment to both worship and outreach. While remaining in the Altar Guild, I would support initiatives such as Ashes to Go, community partnerships like School 30, and other programs that share Christ’s love beyond the parish walls. I am also passionate about fostering parish life — helping new members feel welcomed, engaging younger families, and supporting music and worship ministries. Ministries would be encouraged to thrive in a spirit of collaboration, care, and inclusion, ensuring that Calvary continues to be a place where every person feels valued, supported and connected.
- **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**
In the next 3 to 5 years, Calvary will be even more vibrant, welcoming, and fully engaged with both members and the wider community. “This Old House” will have completed a successful capital campaign, giving the buildings solid bones and allowing for expanded outreach programs. Ashes to Go will reach over 5,000 people each year by including those in nursing homes and senior living communities. Sunday School

will grow into a thriving youth ministry connected to Great Music and outreach, while adult ministries will flourish with monthly potluck Bible studies. Building on the success of Pixie Village and the revitalized buildings, adult education will develop into a vibrant and integral part of Calvary's life. With the organ and carillon refurbished and the addition of a harpsichord, Great Music will offer monthly special programs in addition to regular services. New members will be welcomed through a mentorship program that helps them connect their spiritual needs and gifts with parish life. Calvary's ministries will extend beyond its walls with enhanced live streaming of services and a searchable digital archive of sermons and church records, connecting the parish to an even wider community.

**Candidate for Vestry
Howard M. Craig**



Family: Widower

Occupation: Retired School Counselor/Student Services Dept. Chair – Amherst Schools
Currently Psychotherapist in private practice

Participation at Calvary:

Outreach Committee – member (3 years)
Vestry Member (2 years)
Fellowship Committee – Vestry liaison

Community/Diocese volunteer work:

Assisted with the renovation/repair of a church-owned property (28 Milton Street).
Assisted with the repair and upkeep of the Family Justice Center in Williamsville.
Volunteer at the Hospice facility at Beechwood.

- **What from your life experience can you apply to your work on the Vestry?**
In my role as a counselor/therapist, my role is to talk to people, to listen without rushing to fix or defend, or to argue for the church. My role is to recognize concerns, to make sure I'm hearing correctly, and to help each individual feel like the church is taking them seriously as individuals. So, if someone comes to me with a concern that the church is not reaching out enough to them, my response is NOT "Well, this is what the church does". My response is "Tell me more about what your experience has been here at Calvary". Those are the concerns I can take back to the Vestry for considered discussion and planning for response.
- **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term on Vestry?**
I would like to be part of a more comprehensive and structured approach to parishioner contact - both to welcome newcomers in a variety of ways, and to work with "long-timers" to gather information on their thoughts, concerns and hopes for Calvary's future. Currently, committees do a wonderful job of reaching out to the community for a variety of services and programs (Outreach, Fellowship, etc.). Perhaps offering an occasional "forum" where parishioners can come and voice their personal concerns and thoughts may generate not only new ideas, but people who might like to get on board with some new opportunities here at Calvary.
- **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**
 - 1 - A clear outreach strategy to reach people who are "on the fence" about Calvary.
 - 2 - A full-time sexton who can attend to the needs of the physical building as well as perform the duties needed to enhance the smooth functioning of worship and parish activities.
 - 3 - Continued assessment and upgrading of our technology for communication and outreach.

**Candidate for Vestry
Karen Davidson**



Family: Bruce Davidson – Husband, Lorraine Sansom - Mother

Occupation: I am a retired from the Buffalo Psychiatric Center where I was a Music Therapist for 23 years then a Risk Management Specialist for 12 years

Participation at Calvary or previous parish membership:

1. 1969 – 2023 member of the choir including soloist for funerals and weddings
2. 1977 – 1986 chair of the music committee and again around 2004 – 2007
3. 1/2009 – 1/2013 member of the vestry
4. 2009 – present member of the Outreach Committee
5. 2009 – present member of Pastoral Care Committee serving as the coordinator of Funeral Receptions
6. Coordinated Calvary's participation in the Welcome Home program at Beechwood Continuing by adopting Hansen House and providing monthly activities.
7. Other Activities: Saints and Sinners Committee, Committee to develop a Policy and Procedure Manual, member of a discernment committee, and served on search committees hiring our current and 2 past organist/choir directors.

Community/Diocese volunteer work:

1. Delivered Meals on Wheels twice weekly for 16 years since my retirement.
 2. Volunteered at Beechwood Continuing Care providing weekly sing-a-longs.
- **What from your life experience can you apply to your work on the Vestry?**
In my 35 years working for New York State I supervised both administratively and clinically, a Creative Arts team for several years then moved on to supervising an entire program team of 13 employees of varying disciplines while still implementing Music Therapy treatment programs. As a supervisor I developed and fine tuned my organizational skills, dealt with budgets, program development and evaluation, and employee evaluations.

I then moved to a position in Risk Management where I trained all new staff regarding the procedures and policies of Risk Management, reviewed incident reports, trended various incidents like falls and escapes and conducted investigations into allegations of abuse and neglect, employee misconduct and many other areas.
 - **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term on Vestry?**
I am an established member of the Outreach and Pastoral Care Committees and it's my intent to continue on these committees regardless of where I'm assigned as a vestry representative. I have recently attended a Fellowship Committee Meeting with the intent of helping, however I will put this role on hold to serve where needed.
 - **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**
In the next 3 -5 years I would like to have programs for the youth following their confirmation and to cultivate new, younger leadership. Programs may need to take place on a day other than Sunday. For example, several years ago Calvary started a choral program for the youth on a Tuesday after school. After a rehearsal the youth sang an evensong. The program was offered throughout the diocese and the youth were encouraged to bring their friends of any denomination.

**Candidate for Vestry
Ryan Fleming**



Family: Jocelyn (wife), Liam (14), Rowan (12), Scarlett (5)

Occupation: international education

Participation at Calvary or previous parish membership:

- Vestry member, 2021-2024.
- Parish Budget Special Working Group, 2023.
- Communications Committee member and chair, 2021-present.
- Big Band fundraiser committee, 2025.
- Lifelong Episcopalian attending St. James Episcopal Church in Batavia as a child.
- Social media co-manager for Calvary's Facebook page, alongside Alice Brown.

Community/Diocese volunteer work:

With full-time work and three active kids, my community involvement has been channeled through Calvary. I do maintain some charitable giving to select causes outside of Calvary.

- **What from your life experience can you apply to your work on the Vestry?**
I have a perspective about maintaining the timeless offering that an active spiritual life at Calvary offers, while ensuring that we are messaging for modern times, to the modern person. In my professional life, I work in international education in the area of recruitment, with a sales and marketing focus. There is some relevant crossover to the enterprise of building and maintaining a religiously-motivated membership organization. I possess a calm, solutions-oriented demeanor that would be constructive to the Vestry, and I work well with all personality types. I was involved in helping Calvary to emerge successfully from the pandemic, including by guiding some fundamental changes in our budget picture that ensured ongoing viability. I would bring a millennial perspective to the Vestry. Research is showing that millennials and Gen Z are the most regular churchgoing generations (can you believe that?). Link: [New study shows Gen Z and Millennials are now the most regular churchgoers — Religion News Association](#)
- **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term on Vestry?**
I would continue to chair the Communications committee, and I am interested in supporting the OLR school in Honduras, whether by participating in the trip or supporting the fundraiser, or both.
- **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**
 - three to five years of balanced budgets.
 - stable membership (at or above replacement rate).
 - greater parishioner volunteerism and participation, made easy.

**Candidate for Vestry
John M. (Jack) Saviola**



Family: Molly (spouse), 3 adult sons

Occupation:

Retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY

Niagara University - BA 1978, BS Magna Cum Laude 1989

Career spanned 40 years of generalist positions in Technology Development and Administration.

Expertise in Systems Development, Systems Operations and Security, Business Continuity Planning, Emergency Management

Participation at Calvary or previous parish membership:

Calvary: Staff singer - Parish Choir, Lector, Volunteer - dinners and events.

Vestry at 2 previous parishes.

Dioc. of WNY: Standing Committee (2 terms) Secretary (6 years), Diocesan Council (2 terms)

Forward in Faith Capital Campaign (Dioc. of WNY) Executive Committee

Music Commission, Liturgical Commission

Bishop Brent School for Ministry (WNY) - Instructor in Liturgics and Music

WNY Diocesan Convention, Delegate (11 times), ExOfficio (8 times)

Bexley Hall Seminary - Member, Board of Trustees.

Buffalo Area Council of Churches - Member, Board of Trustees (3 years)

St. Paul's Cathedral - Cathedral Choir (39 years), Lay Precentor, Choral Scholar

Community/Diocese volunteer work:

Erie County Dept. of Homeland Security - Local Emergency Planning Commission (9 years)

Buffalo Area Y2K Working Group - Founding member.

Association of Contingency Planning - Eastern Great Lakes Chapter - Founder

• **What from your life experience can you apply to your work on the Vestry?**

My professional skills in finance, administration and project management are all useful in Church management.

My Church experience in Music, Liturgics and Leadership will all find use as a parish leader.

• **What areas of ministry would you like to pursue and/or support during your term on Vestry?**

Liturgy and Music are my first love in the Church and my deepest experience. I fully expect to expand my role in these areas as a Vestry person. A more organized planning process to develop a long term vision in these areas is a goal I would hope to establish.

I also bring expertise in Facility and Property Management which should be useful in planning for our physical plant. I would like to develop a comprehensive Property Management Policy addressing Use, Access, Security and Safety.

A third interest I would like to pursue is Community outreach as a vehicle for parish development.

Identifying and maintaining how Calvary can be an asset to the diverse populations we serve is critical to attracting new people to our parish life. We must leverage our strengths in the community to facilitate parish growth.

• **In the next 3 to 5 years, I would like Calvary to have...**

... a vision and progress to be a leading Church Music Program in the diocese and the Metro Area. We must both develop and commit to the Liturgical, Artistic and Resource requirements to make this happen.

... an identity as a valued resource for the Village and the Wider Community. Calvary must employ its presence and people to both serve and attract the people we live among.



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