Candidate Biographies

People's Warden (one to be elected)

Jonathan Gloster

Jonathan Gloster has served as the Diocese of NJ Treasurer since November 2020. Jonathan has attended Christ Church since 2001 after relocating to New Jersey from the Washington, DC area. He has served on the Vestry as Property and Finance Committee Chair. He served as Parish Treasurer for over 5 years He has served on several other task forces and committees during his time at Christ Church. He currently serves on the Diocese of NJ Reparations Commission and the Urban Renewal Task Force.

Vestrymember full three-year term (two to be elected)

Jonathan Clark

Jonathan Clark is an active member of Christ Church, where he has served as a vestry member for Discipleship. Additionally, he contributes as a Lector/Intercessor.

Eleanor Forbes

Eleanor Forbes has been attending services at Christ Church for approximately 7 years. Professionally, she has worked in the banking and securities industry for over 20 years, in the area of compliance and regulations. She lives in Kendall Park, NJ with her two daughters, Gabrielle, 20 and Danielle 13. She's a member of several social organizations including the Middlesex County chapter of Mocha Moms, and the New Brunswick chapter of the NAACP. Eleanor is honored to serve as a member of the Christ Church Vestry.

Vestrymember two-year term (one to be elected)

Debra Lowe

Debra has been at the parish since 1982. I am involved in the following ministries: People's Warden, Personnel Chairperson, Lay Eucharistic Minister and Usher. It would be an honor to serve as People's Warden for a second term. I enjoy collaborating with the leadership team and Reverend Joanna. I hope and pray that 2021 allows me a greater opportunity to fellowship with members of the parish and serve the New Brunswick community.

Deputies to the Diocesan Convention (three to be elected)

Karen Bemis

Karen has played several roles within the parish and diocese including Christ Church, New Brunswick, audit Committee, delegate to the Northern Convocation and Diocesan Convention, and deputy to the General Convention in 2015 (Alternate 2012). She supports anti-racism and campus ministry, serving as chair of the chaplaincy committee

for the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers. Professionally, she conducts scientific research in volcanology and oceanography.

Mervis Johnson
Mervis has been a member of Christ Church since mid-1990s. She has served on various Stewardship Committees. She is a member of the Altar Guild, served as the Chairperson, from 2002-2013.After 38 years of service, retired from JP Morgan Chase, as a Vice President in the Bank's Corporate Division in New York.

H. Arthur Phills
Joined Christ Church in 1975. Elected to the Vestry in 1978, and participated in many parish functions and ministries since that time:

- Past Vestry Member for several terms;
- Rector's Warden from 2004 to 2008 and 2015 to 2017;
- People's Warden from 1994 to 1999;
- Property Chairman for multiple past years. Manage the first Exterior Restoration Effort of the Church in 1980, and participated in subsequent restoration efforts with the NJ Historic Trust;
- Participated in many other parish activities, such as the Living Stones Capital Campaign, Homeless Ministry, The Soup Kitchen, the Way of St. Paul, etc;
- Founding Member and past Chair of the Black Heritage Committee. The first Black Heritage program was celebrated at Christ Church in February 1994;
- Currently serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), which I have done for the past 20 years;
- Served as the Rental coordinator of the Church Spaces for many years; I transitioned this responsibility to the Property Committee at the end of 2024.
- Served on the Pastoral Care Committee for over 10 years.
- Chaired and participated in approximately five Parish Committee on Ministry (PCOM) s with Aspirants at Christ Church;
- Currently Co-Chair of the Men's Ministry;
- Served as the Chairperson for multiple Parish Nomination Committees in connection with Parish Meetings;
- Served as Diocesan Convention Deputy and Northern Convocation Delegate on several previous occasions;
- Current Member of the Diocesan "Committee on the Priesthood" (COP) - I have served on this diocesan committee for over 10 years. Attend monthly meetings – I have been functioning as the Secretary since 2014.

Alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention (three to be elected)

Meegan Adames
Meegan is an active member of Christ Church and formerly served as vestrymember, People's Warden, and Rector's Warden. She also volunteers with the Laundry Love ministry, teaches Sunday School, and is a Lector/Intercessor. Meegan and her husband

were married at Christ Church in 2008 and both of their children, Graciela (13) and Nico (11), were baptized at Christ Church as well. Professionally, Meegan has worked as an educator in the New Brunswick Public Schools for over 21 years and currently serves as Principal of the New Brunswick Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH). A proud Scarlet Knight, Meegan earned all three of her degrees from Rutgers University.

Jeffrey Fields
Jeffrey joined the church in 2016 with the help of his girlfriend who is now his wife. He has Ushered during the 8am and 10:30am services. He got confirmed in 2019 and just got married this past June to his wife Ashlinn Stansbury- Fields.

Ashlinn Stansbury-Fields
Ashlinn is an active member of Christ Church and a member of the Stewardship Committee she is also head acolyte. Ashlinn has grew up in this church so she has been a member for 26 years. She got baptized here and she recently got married to her husband Jeffrey Fields at the church this past June. In the past she helped in the nursery and helped during the annual meetings watch the children that needed to be watched. She has also helped her mom Margaret Brown- Stansbury with the Christmas Pageants.

Delegates to the Northern Convocation (six to be elected)

Karen Bemis
Karen has played several roles within the parish and diocese including Christ Church, New Brunswick, audit Committee, delegate to the Northern Convocation and Diocesan Convention, and deputy to the General Convention in 2015 (Alternate 2012). She supports anti-racism and campus ministry, serving as chair of the chaplaincy committee for the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers. Professionally, she conducts scientific research in volcanology and oceanography.

Beth Binde
Beth Binde began attending Christ Church regularly in 2008 and joined in 2010. She became acquainted with the church through the music program. Previous service in Christ Church includes a term of service on the vestry. She currently sings alto in the Chamber Choir and participates in the Way of Saint Paul, serves as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and on the Major Chapter for Trinity Cathedral. She served as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention last year. Civic involvement includes an appointment to the New Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees.

Jeffrey Fields
Jeffrey joined the church in 2016 with the help of his girlfriend who is now his wife. He has Ushered during the 8am and 10:30am services. He got confirmed in 2019 and just got married this past June to his wife Ashlinn Stansbury- Fields.

Mervis Johnson
Mervis has been a member of Christ Church since mid-1990s. She has served on various Stewardship Committees. She is a member of the Altar Guild, served as the Chairperson, from 2002-2013.After 38 years of service, retired from JP Morgan Chase, as a Vice President in the Bank's Corporate Division in New York.

H. Arthur Phills
Joined Christ Church in 1975. Elected to the Vestry in 1978, and participated in many parish functions and ministries since that time:

- Past Vestry Member for several terms;
- Rector's Warden from 2004 to 2008 and 2015 to 2017;
- People's Warden from 1994 to 1999;
- Property Chairman for multiple past years. Manage the first Exterior Restoration Effort of the Church in 1980, and participated in subsequent restoration efforts with the NJ Historic Trust;
- Participated in many other parish activities, such as the Living Stones Capital Campaign, Homeless Ministry, The Soup Kitchen, the Way of St. Paul, etc;
- Founding Member and past Chair of the Black Heritage Committee. The first Black Heritage program was celebrated at Christ Church in February 1994;
- Currently serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), which I have done for the past 20 years;
- Served as the Rental coordinator of the Church Spaces for many years; I transitioned this responsibility to the Property Committee at the end of 2024.
- Served on the Pastoral Care Committee for over 10 years.
- Chaired and participated in approximately five Parish Committee on Ministry (PCOM) s with Aspirants at Christ Church;
- Currently Co-Chair of the Men's Ministry;
- Served as the Chairperson for multiple Parish Nomination Committees in connection with Parish Meetings;
- Served as Diocesan Convention Deputy and Northern Convocation Delegate on several previous occasions;
- Current Member of the Diocesan "Committee on the Priesthood" (COP) - I have served on this diocesan committee for over 10 years. Attend monthly meetings – I have been functioning as the Secretary since 2014.

Ashlinn Stansbury-Fields
Ashlinn is an active member of Christ Church and a member of the Stewardship Committee she is also head acolyte. Ashlinn has grew up in this church so she has been a member for 26 years. She got baptized here and she recently got married to her husband Jeffrey Fields at the church this past June. In the past she helped in the nursery and helped during the annual meetings watch the children that needed to be watched. She has also helped her mom Margaret Brown- Stansbury with the Christmas Pageants.