ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

VESTRY CANDIDATES: 2025

MS. LINDA BROWN RPH, MBE



My Name is Linda Geraldine Brown nee Lewis was born in Belize City Belize June 29, 1956 to Geraldine and Colin Lewis. Graduated from Belize School of Pharmacy and a license pharmacist in California. I served as the Director of Pharmacy from 1990 to 2018 both in Retail and Hospital Pharmacy. In 1997, I was inducted into the International Softball Federation Hall of Fame for my outstanding achievements. Hurled Belize to gold medal in the XII Central American and Caribbean games in 1974.

On December 31, 2010, I was appointed the prestigious Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for her outstanding service to Sports and Medicine. Served as the Honorary Consul of Belize for 8 years working with the Belizean Diaspora in workshops for Disaster Preparedness and Cancer workshops and fund raisers. Served as Consul General Designate of Belize in Los Angeles 2018-2020. Currently, retired and working part-time as a Pharmacist.

As a vestry member I will continue to advocate for causes involving the homelessness and grow the Food Bank. Collaborating with other members to recruit new members with emphasis on Millennium recruitment.

In the Next 5 years my vison is to grow and lead the congregation in dynamic and innovative ways, and collaborate in fund raising and drives to increase the financial contribution to the diocese.

Ms. Heather Kelly



Heather's spiritual journey at St. John's began with Tuesday evening services in early 2020, just prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. She had moved to Los Angeles from Atlanta in late 2019 and was looking for a church to meet her spiritual needs and to connect with fellow Episcopalians.

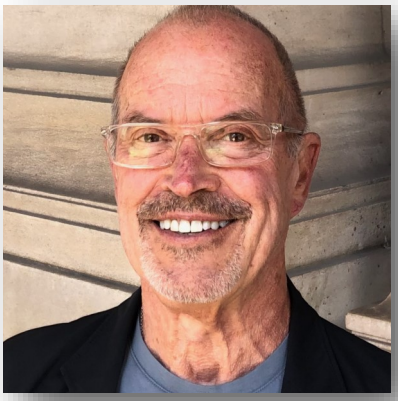
In January 2022, as life began to ease into a new normal with the lingering pandemic, Heather discovered the beauty and tranquility of Sunday evening Compline. It was during this time that Heather knew she had found her church home in Los Angeles. She joined Fr. Mark's last confirmation class at St. John's and was confirmed several months later by Bishop Taylor. After confirmation, Heather joined the Liturgical Guild where she continues to enjoy serving St. John's as an acolyte, crucifer, and thurifer. Most months you will also find her volunteering as part of the food pantry ministry.

Heather has met many wonderful people at St. John's since first attending in early 2020. She would like to expand her spiritual path and service to the St. John's community by serving on the vestry. She believes her leadership and listening skills, empathy for others, ideas, and love of and commitment to St. John's can be put to good use during this time of transition for the cathedral.

Heather is a graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) and earned a B.A. in Humanities, focusing on English Literature and Cinema. Headed in a different direction than her studies at USC, Heather pursued a career in tech as a Quality Engineer, where she has specialized in software for cinemas, stadiums and arenas, and several other industries over the years.

In her free time, Heather enjoys time with family & friends, giving back to USC, beach bike rides, & tapping into her creative side through pottery and as a photography enthusiast.

Mr. David Oakes

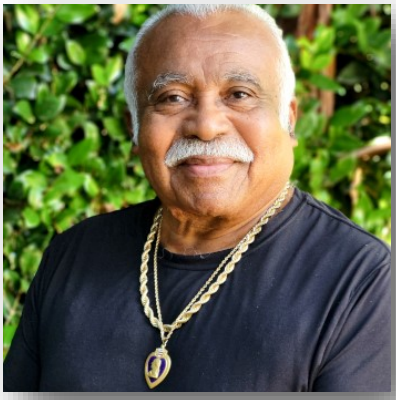


I am a semi-retired entertainment lawyer with over 40 years of experience working with major movie studios, including Paramount, Universal, and Fox, as well as toy and lifestyle companies such as MGA and Sanrio. For more than 12 years, I have been a dedicated member of St. John's Cathedral, and during my previous tenure on the Vestry, I had the privilege of contributing to the Cathedral's growth and preservation by reviewing and providing advice on various agreements for the development project and other business matters.

One of my key accomplishments as a Vestry member was helping to thwart CalTrans' plans to build a disruptive "skyway" overpass behind the Cathedral. I also played a crucial role in enhancing the security of the church property by soliciting a generous donation from a non-member, which funded the installation of fencing around the grounds.

If appointed to the Vestry again, I will continue to work diligently to ensure that St. John's preserves its rich heritage while advancing its mission of being a sanctuary for the diverse people of Los Angeles. I am deeply committed to the well-being of our community and will bring my legal expertise and passion for St. John's to support its future success.

Mr. Nazario Palma



I migrated from Belize to New York in 1965. In January of 1966 I was drafted into the United States Army. During my training I joined the 101st Airborne Division stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky in which I had been promoted to Sergeant E-5. I was deployed to Vietnam where I was shot 3 times, this caused the conclusion of my term of service and I was honorably discharged with 2 Purple Hearts. I then returned to New York where I had several jobs on Wall Street, including working for Chase Manhattan Bank. In 1978, I began working for the United States Postal Service even through my move to Los Angeles in 1980. Throughout my career, I was promoted to supervisor of the mail and intermittently acted as manager of the mail. I retired from the Postal Service after 37 years.

I have been a pledging member of St. Johns since 1980. I have been completing the term of a vestry member in the past months. I have also been doing many tasks as God's work at and around the church. I would like to continue on as a vestry member, I know that I will make a difference. Whether elected or not I will continue to do the job to the best of my ability.

Yours Truly, Nazario Palma

Ms. Ruby Sylvestre



I think that most of you know my name is Ruby Sylvestre.
I have been a member of St. John's forever (specifically since 1975). I was invited by my in-law and best friend Udeen Cooper. The rest is history. Needless to say, I have been attending for a long time.

After a few years, I began to get involved in church activities.
I was first attracted to what we called the food pantry at the time.

I had a good friend in Westwood with a bakery, Every Saturday, I drove there to get her left over pastries for the week to bring to St. John's. Slowly, I began to get involved in other church activities. I have served as vestry member for a number of times over the years. For me, acting as a vestry member means a lot of responsibility and commitment. It was very important to me to be a part of as many activities as possible so that the parishioners would know who represented them.

I am a retiree of the City of Los Angeles. I have been retired since 2002. I have held several positions throughout my city career. The last one is what I am most proud of. I served as the Administrator/ Coordinator of the Deferred Compensation Plan for the City of Los Angeles. It meant that I made a difference in the future lives of many workers.

If elected as your vestry representative, I will do my very best to work along with my fellow vestry members to always operate in the best interest of St. John's Cathedral.

Mr. Hamilton Yang



My journey to Episcopalianism and St. John's was anything but direct. I grew up in an evangelical church in Orange County, and while those early years were formative, I began seeking a deeper, more substantive faith. I'm grateful that my search led me to St. John's when I was looking for services during Good Friday and Christmas. Gradually, I found myself drawn to St. John's more and more, encountering God through the potent combination of liturgy, music, architecture, and preaching that we've all come to know and love. I'm glad to have been able to celebrate several important life milestones at St John's, getting married in 2015 to my wife Amanda, and the baptism of our daughter, Serafina, in 2024.

I previously served on the Vestry from 2020 to 2023, during which I oversaw our streaming and sound system upgrades. I'm excited about the work ahead for the Vestry in the coming years, particularly the real estate project and the search for a new dean. As someone in my thirties and a new parent, I'm deeply invested in the future of St. John's. I'm committed to ensuring that the vibrant and unique history of St. John's is preserved and carried forward into its next season.

Let me also provide a brief overview of my ministry experience. Prior to St John's, for ten years, I was a volunteer incarnational youth minister, tutor, and mentor to a group of twelve to eighteen year-olds as part of an urban, multicultural church plant in West Adams/Jefferson Park. Living next to the people I ministered to, I was deeply familiar with the challenging intersection of poverty, unjust immigration policies, and environmental violations. I advocated on behalf of my neighbors to shut down the Murphy Drill Site, an oil drilling operation that was operating in mere feet of residents and was actively causing health problems in local residents due to its open use of toxic chemicals.

In my professional life, I'm a product management leader at cybersecurity technology startups. In short, my role is to ensure that our software engineers build the right solutions—keeping our customers protected while driving the company's success. I'm no stranger to working collaboratively across various functions, whether with the executive team or individual contributors. Having worked in various startups, I'm accustomed to being resourceful and hands-on when needed, while also stepping back to set strategy and vision for the wider team.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of LOS ANGELES