

# Vestry Nominees



## Reeves Howard

I am the 5th generation of my family to belong to St. Michael's. Even though we didn't live here until I was 12 years old, my mother made it clear that this

was always my home. This church has been the only constant in my life. I was baptized and confirmed here. Billy and I were married at St. Michael's in 2005. We have two children, Liam (10) and Samantha (3) who were both baptized here.

Although I was raised going to church and participating in church community, I did not have a personal relationship with Christ until after the loss of my sister in 1999. God used this painful experience to reveal himself to me. I attend church regularly, read Scripture, pray daily, and seek to glorify God.

I feel called to minister to people who have lost their faith, been hurt by people in the church, and those who are not personally connected to Christ. I do this primarily through my counseling practice, but also in my interaction with family and friends. We teach our children about Christ daily and practice our faith as a family.

I help teach Sunday school. In the past, I have volunteered during VBS, been a Bell Ringer, and an usher.

I would like to see the St. Michael's children's program grow. I am excited about the programs in place, and look forward to supporting its growth. I want St. Michael's to become even more a place of peace, community, and fellowship, where members all feel connected to and supported by one another.



## Susannah Hubbell

I started attending St. Michael's just after moving to Charleston in 1994. I moved to Charleston to pursue my dream of becoming an artist. At that time I

would slip quietly into one of the back pews at the 10:30 service to sit alone and pray for God's guidance for my young life, asking if this is where I was supposed to be. I believe He answered YES! Shortly after, my husband Matt and I married and we officially joined the church in 1999. We attended Alpha, then Beta, and soon had our two children whom we have raised in St. Michael's family.

I grew up Methodist in a small upstate town called Gramling. My family never missed a Sunday. In my teenage years I really took ownership of my faith, and I have felt Christ's presence in my life steadily since that time. When my daughter Eads was 4 years old, I started the "Back Yard Bible Club." Six little girls met weekly for Bible lessons and play. For the next eight years the other mothers and I joyfully shepherded the girls

weekly in their walk with Christ. We all grew in faith, and we encouraged other groups to form and follow our format.

I've always considered that my first mission to St Michael's is to have my whole family in attendance each Sunday to hear God's word. Over the years I have helped with various Bible Schools, Alpha sessions, Operation Christmas Child, and children's Sunday School. I served as co-chair in 2012 and then chair of our Kanuga retreat in 2013. I've also enjoyed watching my children serve as acolytes and my husband as usher. In 2018 I found my calling to become the leader and teacher of our Life Group. I consider this an honor, and I dedicate much time preparing each lesson for our group of 10 which meets biweekly. I have to be on my toes as the rector of our church is a member of our group! This only proves that "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called!" If elected to vestry I would be dedicated to St. Michael's mission to honor the teachings of the Bible by staying "under God's word" as we navigate the uncertainty of the days ahead.



## Eileen Williams

My husband's Charleston family vacations always included attending St. Michael's on Sunday. Naturally, when we moved to Charleston in 2007, we began attending the sanctuary service. As our family grew, we began attending the Family Service and have been actively serving there for over four years.

I was raised in a Christian home, attended and participated in "all things church" and went to a Christian school. I wasn't a "rebellious child." Around 9 years old, I remember sitting with a friend at church one Sunday who told me she was planning to walk down to the pulpit to tell the preacher she was ready to be baptized and commit her life to Christ. She asked if I wanted to come with her and not realizing what I was actually doing, I agreed (I think my parents watching from a few pews over were caught off guard!). It wasn't until high school when all the teenage angst and quest for defining myself would prove I needed more than "I alone". I recall sitting in my bedroom one night, feeling tense, lonely and lost. All I could think to do was open my Bible (the one given to me when I was baptized) and open the pages to one that was bookmarked. The bookmark itself was the kind that had your name, your name's meaning, and a Bible verse. I remember reading the verse on the bookmark: *"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."* (Deut 31:8) After I read, I recall an overwhelming feeling of peace that was totally and completely The Lord. I poured out all my

worries, confessed my sins, and recommitted my life to Christ.

These days are spent raising little ones with my husband and trying to build a solid Christian foundation for them. They are very curious and answering their questions about Christianity has proven more difficult than 3rd grade math!

I have found that one passion in sharing Christ with others is through service. I have been involved in various service groups and have been able to carry some ideas over to the Family Ministry Task Force. While the Task Force is still young, we have had a great turnout with our Blessings Bags event and distributing those bags at the Hot Dog Ministry. My other passion is in music ministry. From playing the violin and piano during offertories in high school, to playing and singing in the Praise Band in the Family Service, music lifts everyone up in a way so powerful only The Lord can produce.

My current involvement is in the Praise Band and the Family Ministry Task Force. I have been playing and singing in the band for about 3 years. As a member of the Family Ministry Task Force, we are building a great program for the families of St. Michaels that I am excited to see grow and have my children be a part of. This past year, I assisted Chris and Paige with Children on Wednesdays Children's Choir.

As a youth, one of my greatest joys was our summer mission trips to inner city neighborhoods to host a Vacation Bible School with a local church. Through crafts, plays, stories, and games, we built relationships with these kids. Seeing their tears when we had to say goodbye left us heartbroken but also knowing we'd started a foundation in Christ that would hopefully continue. Not only did these mission trips introduce the kids to Christ, the impact the week would have on our youth group was nothing short of a yearly revival. To see young teens pour their hearts out to each other and to the Lord in ways we would not normally do in our school friend groups—only God could do that.

Growing up, two of my greatest influences were my high-school Sunday School teachers. They were women who we knew weren't perfect but were humble enough to show us their faults, help us learn from them, and help support us in ways when parents or friends might not have been able to. I still keep in touch with them, 20+ years later.

I want those experiences for my children. I see a current generation of children being raised by Christ-centered families growing in Christ while sharing Christ with others. I want St. Michael's to be known, not just as a historical downtown church, but as one that has a family life new families want to grow their children in.