

**Notice of Annual Meeting  
with Election of Vestry Members  
Sunday, January 26, 2020  
10:00-11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall**

On Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 10:00 am, we will have our Annual Meeting between our two worship services. At this meeting, we will, among other things, thank Paul G. Allvin, Jeanine Bonds, Ginny Gomez, and Maury Wray who are completing their 3-year term, and elect four new vestry members to replace them. See bios and statements of candidates below.

**Roger Cline**



Thank you for considering me to serve as a member of the vestry at The Falls Church Episcopal. I still remember the day in September 2017 when my wife, Betsy and I came to our first 11:15 service at the historic church. We were so warmly greeted by Paul Rosbolt, and have never looked back since then in enjoying the deeply felt and friendly worship services here. My wife and I moved to the Falls Church area after my retirement from 45 years as a double bassist in the Chicago Symphony to be close to our daughter, Jennifer Mondie and our grandson, Campbell who live in D.C. Jenny has served 25 years as a violist member of the National Symphony Orchestra. Our son, Dan is a cellist in the Arkansas Symphony and works as a CPA for Blue Cross. Betsy was a professional violinist in the Chicago area.

I have been a member of the Episcopal faith since Betsy's and my marriage almost 50 years ago. Betsy's family included a grandfather, Charles David Williams who was the fourth Episcopal bishop of Michigan. I served on the vestry of our former church, St. Augustine's in Wilmette, Illinois. Betsy served on the altar guild and I ushered as well as both of us running the church's plant sale. I also served on the Member's Committee of the Chicago Symphony, which is the elected body that represents the musicians of the Chicago Symphony to the CSO Association. I was part of the process of selecting a new music director of the CSO when Riccardo Muti was named the new Music Director.

We have taken up similar callings in TFCE – Betsy heading up the altar guild at 11:15 services and I ushering. We both helped with the 250<sup>th</sup> year celebration and the IWC program. I have done furniture repair for the church, being a life long wood worker. My woodworking now includes turnings and sculptural pieces. In recent years, which began for the needs of my percussion colleagues in the CSO, I design and build percussion instruments that I now sell to percussionists in virtually all U.S. and many overseas orchestras.

I would be honored to help represent the parishioners of TFCE as a member of the vestry during this transitional period of selecting a new rector.

## Christine Cordes



Thank you for considering me for a role on the Vestry of the Falls Church Episcopal. The opportunity to write this short bio brought back a flood of warm memories of the first time Anna (9), Evelyn (5) and I attended service here 5 years ago. During Chapel for the Day School the week before, I had listened to Reverend John completely captivate his audience of never-still, never-quiet preschoolers. I had been searching for a church for some time and that 15 minutes made me hope that this might be the community that my young family needed. The warmth and welcome we received that day (and all days since) showed me that we had truly found our church home. Our family loves being part of the Falls Church Episcopal family and along the way we've participated in a number of volunteer efforts and

events. I've enjoyed being a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Children's Ministry, participating in Mom's Bible Study, helping with the alternative gift market, even joining the 5K runners' group! Anna, Evelyn and I are also active in Girl Scouts, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Second Story, a local organization that supports homeless youth. During the week, I work as a strategist for MITRE where I help organizations grow and thrive during times of significant transition. While volunteering to help some of our Church's ministries write a mission statement or set goals over the last few years, I began to understand that setting goals is less about numbers or strategies and more about discerning God's unique prayer for us and our efforts. I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to contribute this outlook along with my experience and time as a member of the Vestry.

## Nick Donlan



Having a rich and active history in The Falls Church Episcopal, I am excited for the opportunity to help guide the church in its own period of transformative growth. As a teen, I attended youth group at The Falls Church. In my 20's, I brought Amy to see the continuing Episcopal congregation that was idealistic enough to meet in a loft. We both loved how this tight-knit community shepherded us through our dating years. When a few other people in their 20's and 30's joined, I founded the 20's and 30's group. I also sang in the choir. After Amy and I got married and

our daughters, Ellie (7) and Reese (4), arrived, it meant a lot to see the girls baptized shortly after our church's return to the church property. Now, I love watching our girls grow their faith through the incredible children's ministry.

My own faith has matured at The Falls Church through powerful sermons, retreats and adult forums. It is easy to be comfortable in my life, but I love that the church challenges me to think about forgiveness, refugees, violence, racism, inequality and the LGBT community through the eyes of God. Attending The Falls Church has made me a better Christian and person. In response, I am passionate about actively recruiting and welcoming new folks to our community. Not because I want more people in the seats, but because I want to share the blessing that I have experienced.

Today, our community is going through transition, but it is no different than the journey that I have been on with this church for the last 13 years. We have worshiped in a loft, changed priests, and lost friends. However, it is in these periods of change that we have built a strong community and made our greatest strides forward. I am committed to taking advantage of this opportunity by developing our church--in faith, resources, and vision. This is why I would like to serve on the Vestry. Since earning my MBA in 2012, I have worked at a Fortune 500 IT services firm and developed strong skills in strategy, finance and management. I want to use my experience in business to help The Falls Church Episcopal grow strategically, efficiently, and effectively. I feel especially called to continue to grow our community in all age groups and to help newcomers feel welcomed and get connected. Most of all, I want to give back to this church that has given me so much guidance, support, and love. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

## Krista Gauthier



Dave, Lia, Katy and I joined TFCE in January 2018 after a long and winding spiritual journey. Dave and I were raised Catholic and for a number of reasons felt, when we were pregnant with Lia, that we wanted to find a spiritual home that spoke more to our own beliefs. After spending 7 years at an episcopal church in Alexandria where we were officially received into the Church and where our two daughters were baptized, we decided it was time to find something a little closer to our home in Annandale. So, in January 2018 we walked into TFCE for the first time. Although already devote Episcopalians, it was not until we walked through these doors that we felt that we had found our communal home.

When not at TFCE, I work as the founder and Executive Director of SDSquared, an educational, non-profit organization that helps students with dyslexia reach their full potential in STEM. Through that work I have acquired knowledge and experience on every aspect of non-profit business development and having built the organization from the ground up I have led the company through a myriad of changes and

transitions. That is why I feel especially called at this time to join the TFCE vestry so that I can share what I have learned during this critical time and give back to the place that has become so important to all of us.

## **Margaret Stromecki**



I am honored to be considered for service on your Vestry, and I am excited at the prospect of guiding our church through a period of transition and growth. My husband Gene and I have had a long and rich relationship with The Falls Church. We first attended the church in 1989 when we moved to the area, and two of our three children were baptized here. After moving to Herndon, we joined St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in 1995. In 2013, we returned to The Falls Church because of its strong music program and the opportunity to help rebuild this wonderful church community. I believe my work and volunteer experience provide me with the skills and the background to help lead our church through this next chapter. After 18 years of

service with the federal government, I currently work as a strategic consultant for MITRE. I have managed large work units and programs and now lend that knowledge to others in the federal government through my consultancy work. My previous service as a member of the Vestry of St. Timothy's and my current role on the Executive Board of Cantate Chamber Singers will offer me experience to draw upon as part of the TFCE Vestry. As a member of the Historic Church Choir, the Bailey's Crossroads Ministry, and the Connect Committee, I would hope to focus on providing strong stewardship to our music and outreach programs. I have found TFCE to be profoundly inspiring, welcoming, and caring, and I would welcome the chance to give back to a church that has given me so much.