

# Meet the Transition Team of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

Transition team members submitted an application and were selected by the wardens to serve. We each feel strongly called to shepherd Saint Mary's into a relationship with a new priest. You can reach us at [transitionteam@saintmarysepiscopal.org](mailto:transitionteam@saintmarysepiscopal.org).

## **Emma Brickson**

*Service: 9AM*

*Family: Moms - Cindi and Maggie Siblings - Gabrielle and Michael (Plus 2 others that don't attend)*

I joined St. Mary's in November of 2019. I am a junior in high school at St. Anthony Village High School. I was invited to be on the Transition Team as the youth person by MiaLisa. I go to Youth Group every week with my younger siblings. On the side, when I am not doing online school, I go to dance virtually through Zoom. I also love to bake and do art. I am also on the Episcopal Church of Minnesota's Youth Commission. I am excited to join this transition team and see what happens along the path.

## **Laura-Lee Brown she/her/hers**

*Service: 9am*

*Family: Married to Dan and mother of 3; ages 6, 4 & 1 years old*

I love the people at St. Mary's and would love to see us emerge from this experience as a strong and vibrant community. In order to do so, we'll need to be crisp on our strategic intent as a community and ask some hard questions on where we will need to go. I do not shy away from hard conversations, yet I will always lead with love and compassion. Who we call as our next priest will play a pivotal role as to who we emerge to be as St. Mary's, I very much want to be a part of bringing this new chapter to life. St. Mary's has built an incredible home for young children and I felt called to this ministry to ensure our littlest voices and their parents were represented. Professionally I am a strategist, executive consultant, marketer and engineer in the medical device industry.

## **Ginny DeLuca**

*Service: 11am*

*Family: Married to Jim, blessed with 4 children Eric, Enzo, Giulia, and Joe.*

We have been members of St Mary's for almost 30 years. I love the community and I have served in many groups and in leadership positions throughout the years. For me the community, the relationships I have developed and the support I receive to joyfully go out into the world working for justice keep me at St Mary's through good and not so good. I'm honored to serve on the Transition team and look forward to celebrating St Mary's future with everyone.

## **Joe McManmon**

*Service: 9 am*

*Family: Married to Michael and have a 6 1/2 year old son*

We have been attending St. Mary's for 6 years. It is a good fit for a life-long Catholic (me) and a Protestant. We were looking for a church to raise our son in. The rainbow flag in front let us know that St. Mary's is a welcoming church. We came to visit and stayed. My personal favorite story about St. Mary's is the 140 year old Epiphany ring and the tradition of hiding it in a cake. I love to make cakes for others and continue the tradition.

### **Cathy McNaughton**

*Service: 9 and 11*

*Mother of 2 sons/1 daughter in law, 4 grand children ages 17-37.*

In March I had to help move my constant companion of 35 years, Mo, into a memory care facility. Since then I have lived alone for the first time in my life. Recently I applied for the Transition Team at St. Mary's. What a good way to pay back for the wonderful religious experiences of the last 10 years. I was excited and filled with joy and expectation when I was chosen to join. I feel privileged and honored to be on this team. Shortly after this I was chosen to be a delegate to the ECMN Convention where I heard the most heart rendering all for Discipleship from our new Bishop. (Go to September 30th parish bulletin for the link to the ECMN Saturday Message followed by the Sunday Homily). What a glorious time to be at St. Mary's with these wonderful opportunities. Hope to see and talk with many of you in the near future.

### **Catherine Neuschler - she/her/hers**

*Service: 11 am*

*Family: Spouse Jeff (a non-attending agnostic)*

I'm a genetic Episcopalian and come from a long line of church treasurers, which I have continued by being a past treasurer at St Mary's and serving on the finance committee. Many years ago Anne Murphy gave a sermon at St Mary's, and asked us all to think about what we choose to put on our plates and what the commonality was. In my personal and professional life I am drawn to building structures that support others doing their best work. I think serving on the transition team is about getting us a structure and a leader that will help St Mary's do all the good ministry we have to do, and I am looking forward to playing a role in that transition.

### **Joanna Schnedler**

*Service: 9am & 11am*

*Family: Spouse John (Catholic, attends St. Mary's social events), mother of 2: ages 6&4*

I am a 3rd generation Episcopalian who grew up at Ascension in Stillwater, and also attended St. Mark's Cathedral before arriving at St. Mary's in 2006. I have loved being involved with the Episcopal Church in Minnesota by working at Episcopal Community Services from 2003-2008, and as an adult leader of the St. Paul Teens Encounter Christ program from 2003-2014. I have felt comfortable in every Episcopal Church I have visited across the state. My career journey has been in fundraising for nonprofits and in arts administration including as the current director of the Minnesota Music Coalition. I was excited about this opportunity because of my experience in human resources and a couple of priest search processes. I stay at St. Mary's

because I love our social justice commitment and having my kids grow up with friends in the church.

**Jennie Ward, she/her/hers**

*Service: 11 am*

*Family: Husband Todd Reemtsma and our kids Max (16) and Theo (12)*

Attending St. Mary's since 2007. Grew up in Woodbury (attending Christ Church in early childhood, then grew up at the Cathedral), left Minnesota for 20 years, moved back in 2007. Cradle Episcopalian: Baptized, confirmed, married in Episcopal community and liturgy. I remember 1928 BCP Morning Prayer services from before I could read, full of thees and thous and juicy poetry. I'm a professional theater director and teacher, freelance for 25 years. Also part-time Managing Director of a performing arts center in Minneapolis, where I'm in the midst of launching a new model for artistic autonomy and economic sustainability for artists who work in performance. As a theater maker and storyteller, always thinking in systems, webs, nexuses. As a director, I work in repeated cycles of gathering groups of people to work collaboratively towards a common (and living/moving/changing) goal.

**Jennifer Wedel**

*Service: 9am, Sunday School*

*Family: I live with my daughter Caroline (8), and my dad Stuart (80)*

Paulette Briese invited me to get involved with St. Mary's when the 9am service was being formed. They wanted the perspective of someone who is "unchurched" but who cares about the Spirit that moves among all of us. That described me - fair enough! During the 9am formation process, I learned a lot about what some Saint Marians needed from a service but that wasn't offered at that time. And I learned how to work with and find consensus with a group of people with different perspectives and needs. I only participated for a little while - I withdrew when my mom got sick. When I went to St. Mary's, to the first 9am service ----- I got "churched"! I had never felt "called" or seen so deeply. St. Mary's commitment to children is also really important to me.

**Jane Wells**

I am a widow, living in a co-op. It is interesting and better than being alone in the present situation. I am acting as the deacon in the 9:00 service, as invited by Ramona. I am otherwise retired, but I have a ministry in the St. Paul schools, and that is on hold, too. Other ministries are invited, but have not taken hold yet. Creating new ministries and inviting others to join is my secret which is not so secret! I have been at St. Mary's for twelve years, since we moved to town from Cleveland, where we spent most of our lives. Grandchildren called! They are in high school, so it is interesting, to say the least. At St. Mary's, we sang in the choir until the 9:00 service called to us, and have helped to plan it a bit. A turning point came for me when Caroline Kaker said, "I need to talk about this." And I did, too. That led to several big group sharing that helped us all. We need to find a way to do more of that in the covid situation. And that led me to the transition team!