

## **2021 Annual Meeting Vestry Biographies:**

### **Wardens**

**Steven (Steve) Koehler:** Will be serving a second year of his first term. Steve is a native Chicagoan who discovered Cape Cod thanks to his wife Anne and her deep family roots here. Before retiring in 2011, Steve pursued a career in accounting and financial reporting in several large and small pharmaceutical corporations for nearly forty years and is a CPA. Over those years, he also had considerable experience working with churches and non-profit organizations applying the same skills. He has served as treasurer for three different Episcopal parishes in Illinois and New Jersey. Steve also worked with the Diocese of Newark to provide financial consulting and annual audits for parishes and also served on the Commission on Ministry. At CHS he has been a member of the Finance Committee and sings in the Choir. In the Orleans community he is a Trustee and Treasurer for the Orleans Conservation Trust.

**Brenda Ridgeway:** Is **nominated** for her first two-year term as Warden. Brenda is a native New Englander, growing up in Douglas, Mass., where she attended Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church with her extended family. She moved to Eastham with her young family in 1990 to teach in the Nauset District. She taught kindergarten in Orleans for several years before moving to the middle school and finding her true calling—teaching language arts to seventh and eighth graders. Both widowed, she and Brian met in 2013, and she chose to join him in worshipping at CHS where they were married in 2014. Brenda currently serves as Co-Director of Food4Kids and as Co-Chair of Building and Grounds. She has served on the Vestry for the past three years and has served as Vestry Liaison to the Outreach and the Creative Arts Committees. (She looks forward to continuing her service as Warden for the next two years.)

### **Treasurer**

**Gordon (Chris) Crighton:** Is **nominated** for a second one-year term. Chris is a lifelong Episcopalian and native of Massachusetts. During his military career he and his wife Diana were members of Anglican-Episcopal churches in Germany and Belgium. Chris became connected with Church of the Holy Spirit when his parents moved to Orleans in 1968 and joined the church. Chris and Diana became full-time residents here in 2015, and Chris became active in choir and the Finance Committee. Chris has served in other Episcopal parishes as junior warden with maintenance responsibilities and in several capacities relating to parish finances.

### **Clerk**

**John (Jack) Gentile:** Is **nominated** for a fourth one-year term. Jack and his family arrived on the Cape in 2000 and joined CHS and the Episcopal Church in 2002. He was a member of the Pastoral Care ministry, a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lay Eucharistic Visitor, and, serves on the Finance Committee. His vision for CHS is to see the church grow and attract younger families, to provide a more dynamic environment and to engage with newly retired couples to further expand our resource pool. He supports our extensive outreach program both outside the parish as well as within the CHS healing programs.

### **Vestry**

**Nancy Boccia:** Is **nominated** for a one year, completing an unexpired term. I am honored to join the Vestry and look forward to serving the Church of the Holy Spirit. I have attended various Catholic and Episcopal Churches, most recently St. Barts in New York. It has been a long time since I have felt a connection to a church community, and am grateful God led me here. Since retiring from Harvard Business School in 2013, I continue to work there as a contractor/consultant for major projects and initiatives. Prior to Harvard, I worked in the hospitality/restaurant world in New York and Boston. I am married to my wonderful husband and we have a combined family of 5 children and 7 grandchildren. I love to laugh, dance, garden, travel, cook, kayak, read and walk with my Bloodhound, Frank. As a member of the Gardening and Building & Grounds committees, I look forward to deepening my connections with the community at CHS.

**J. Thompson (Tom) Dewing:** Is nominated for a second term. Tom was raised in Belmont Massachusetts, where his family were active participants at All Saints Episcopal Church. After serving for 5 years as an officer in the Navy and with an MBA, he joined Cummins Engine for 30 years, becoming an international executive, where he met and married Sally. For 40 years he and Sally have worshipped together and participated in church life as Presbyterians, Episcopalians and in non-denominational settings in several communities around the country and internationally. They have been active participants in a number of capacities at the Church of the Holy Spirit since 2001 when they settled here. Among a number of various responsibilities, Tom has served on the Vestry, was Warden, and chaired a search committee.

**Douglas (Doug) Fromm:** Will be serving a second year of his second term. Having spent over thirty years of summers on the Cape, Doug and Dianne moved full time in 2011 and within the year found their spiritual home at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Doug spent forty-four years in parish ministry of the Reformed Church in America that hails from the reformation and dates to 1629 in this country. He has long been active in the Ecumenical Life of the Church. In the nineties decade he was a member of the dialogue between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Reformed Churches. He was an architect of the Formula of Agreement establishing full communion between these bodies. This historic dialogue ran concurrent with the dialogue between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church and the adoption of the Concordat of Agreement. A delegate to the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity in the Vatican focusing on “orders of ministry”, he was part of a private audience with Pope John Paul II. He travelled to South Africa for discussions as to how the Church in the northern hemisphere could stand in solidarity with churches against the practice of apartheid. During those meetings he had chance to spend a day with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a treasured memory. A delegate to the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, he was one of five who joined with Episcopal Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning to meet with Palestinian leader, Yassar Arafat, at the UN in Geneva. He is honored to be nominated to serve on the Vestry of the Church of the Holy Spirit as he has a high respect for the worship and work of the parish.

**Katherine (Kathy) Goddard:** Is nominated for a second term. Kathy “grew up Presbyterian” in Buffalo, and became an Episcopalian after marrying Nat Goddard in 1961. They lived and worked at the Episcopal Center in West Cornwall, CT and then lived in South Kent, CT where she was active in youth programs. They moved to Cape Cod and joined CHS in 1995 where she was on the search committee for the new rector.

**John L. Harter:** Will be serving a second year of his first term. John was baptized at birth in the Presbyterian religion project and raised up through the church in Sunday School, Youth Groups, Bell Choir, Choral Choir, Retreats and Work Projects. He was ordained Deacon & Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA. He served as Treasurer for his congregation for ten years through two interims, as well as on many committees. He also served on the Executive Committee and as Moderator of the Presbytery of Southern New England (“bishop-level” of denomination). John and his wife Cris continue to work to restore their previous church home - a Stamford CT mid-century modern jewel of a church - and have it recognized as a National Historic Landmark. John & Cris found CHS upon their retirement full time to Orleans: invited by friends who are members, they found their “new spiritual center”. John serves as Lector and Usher, is part of the bible study group on Sunday mornings, and loves packing and driving all summer with Food 4 Kids.

**Priscilla Isner:** Will be serving a second year of her first term. Priscilla has been an Episcopalian her entire life, which began when she was baptized and confirmed at St John’s, Staten Island, NY. She attended Trinity Episcopal Church, in Wrentham, MA for about 30 years before moving to Cape Cod and joining CHS three+ years ago. A few of the activities Priscilla has been involved with over the years: Choir, Sunday School Teacher, Altar Guild, Vestry, representative to Diocesan convention, assisting with church fair and rummage sale.

At CHS, she is part of the Flower guild, has co-chaired the Holiday Bazaar, and is on the welcoming committee. She is married to Michael, and they have 3 children and 1 grandchild. Priscilla was an RN at Boston Children’s Hospital with a specialty in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery for 30 years and is now retired. Beyond CHS, she is a volunteer at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and The Cape Cod Foundation.

**Ann Pike-Paris:** Is nominated for her first two-year term. Born in East Orange NJ, I was baptized in IN at the Episcopal church where my parents married. Starting summers in the '60s, I was a fortunate teen able to work here and live with my aunt and uncle in E. Orleans and began attending CHS. Married at CHS in '71 to Rick, '79 saw our daughter Abigail baptized here. My most profound experience was being part of 12 families starting an Episcopal mission in the Diocese of Washington, DC and seeing it reach parish status. My faith roles have spanned teaching church school, starting a co-op nursery, altar guild, usher guild and at CHS health ministry, the annual antique show and building and grounds. Professionally, I am an RN with a range of work experiences, most recently in research and public health and volunteering for the Brain Injury Association of MA.

**Johanna (Hanna) Schneider:** Is nominated for her first two-year term. I currently live in Eastham with my mother Georgia and my daughter Beth (20) My son Ben (23) recently moved back from CO. so we have a full house. I am co-director and Lead preschool teacher of The Learning Garden Preschool in Orleans. I have lived on the cape most of my life. My parents Georgia and Kim Schneider had family homes here and I am blessed to be surrounded by Aunts, cousins and friends both old and new. As a child I attended this church with my mother and sister. As an adult I returned to hopefully offer my children a little of what I had received as a young person. I also longed to reconnect spiritually and personally. I was welcomed immediately and became active in: Youth Group Functions, Church school, and Altar Guild.

### **Diocesan Convention and Deanery Delegates**

**Celia Calhoun:** Will be serving a second year of her first term. Celia visited CHS frequently from 1982 through 1996 when she and her husband moved here permanently. She served as Clerk to the Vestry for many years and was elected Senior Warden in 2009 during the interim rector period. She says she "was privileged to be in the position to call Father Adam as our Rector". Celia volunteered as "Rector's Assistant" and then as interim Administrative Assistant. She helped develop the original Lay Pastoral Care Committee, and was co-mentor of the EfM group from 2007 until 2015. She assisted Bernie Hutchens on the church database, and has now handed over management of the new database system to The Rev. Anne Koehler. She also manages the Pastoral Care Group. Celia has found the Deanery Meetings she has been able to attend very interesting, if full of Diocesan jargon.

**Katherine (Kate) Paradise:** Is nominated for her first two-year term. Kate is originally from Chappaqua, New York where she first attended the Episcopal Church as a child. Living in the Boston area, she was a long-time member of The Church of Our Saviour (Brookline) serving on the vestry, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chair of the Worship Commission, Chair of the Administration and Personnel Commission, long time member of the Mission Steering Committee, fundraising chair, and for many years as coordinator of the annual Alternative Christmas Market. On the diocesan level she served as lay co-convener for the Charles River Deanery. Kate graduated from EfM in 2010. In January 2012, she moved to Eastham, joined CHS and currently serves on the Stewardship and Welcoming Paths Committees, and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and lector. Kate's professional career encompasses 25 years in Human Resources and Finance. She is a passionate photographer, and she and Golden Retriever, Violet, look forward to hosting the Eastham Wellfleet Shepherd Group when we can gather again.

### **Alternate Diocesan Convention and Deanery Delegate**

**Cynthia Murray:** Is nominated for her first two-year term. Cynthia and her husband Tom moved to Brewster in June 2012 and joined CHS shortly thereafter. One thing led to another, beginning with Fay Cole drafting her to be on the Hospitality Committee, to being nominated to serve on the vestry and then serve as a warden a few years ago. "I have always been involved with my church, wherever we have lived. It's what I love to do."

### **Delegates to the Cape Cod Council of Churches**

The Rev. William (Bill) and Margaret Anne Heuss: Will be serving a second year of their first term. From 1996 until 2008, when he was rector of St. David's, South Yarmouth, Bill was a member of the Cape Cod Council of Churches, and, for two years, was President of the Council. He continues on the Council's Public Policy Committee and, along with wife Margaret Ann, will continue as CHS representatives to the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine (Kate) Paradise*, on behalf of the 2020 Nominating Committee