



Vestry Candidate Autobiography

Carol Morgan

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks

I was very touched by the warmth of the welcome I received.

What I love most about St. Marks

What I love most about St. Mark's is the wide variety of ministries available to help me grow spiritually and to reach out to the community in need.

My involvement at St. Mark's, the broader church, local community and beyond

At St. Clare's Church, I was a Bishop's Warden, Bishop's Committee member, lector, counter, choir member, and stewardship committee member. In the broader church, I am the Secretary for the Los Angeles Diocesan Assembly of the Daughters of the King and a member of the Cursillo community. At St. Mark's, I am a member of the Readiness Task Force, the Past President of the Daughters of the King, the coordinator of the parish prayer list through the Daughters of the King, a member of the handbell choir, and a lector. I have recently agreed to serve on the new Capital Campaign Executive Committee.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Marks

I can offer the skills of administration, public speaking and organization. I can work with the details of a project as well as the larger picture. I prefer working on the implementation phase of a project rather than maintenance.

Other information I would like to share

I am a widow, the mother of two adult children and the grandmother of two granddaughters. I will be retired in January 2021 and able to offer my time to St. Mark's.



Vestry Candidate Autobiography Marcia Godwin

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Mark's

I became a member of the Episcopal Church when I was five years old and baptized at All Saints Episcopal Church, Oxnard. I was confirmed in 1976. I was part of the group who came to St. Mark's from St. Clare's.

What I love most about St. Mark's

It is a church that is growing in diversity and has a wide range of ages. It has become more welcoming and willing to try new activities. It is also nice that it is a parish, with more members and resources. It is still a church where it is possible to know most of the members and have confidence that people will help each other. The clergy (plural!) and lay leaders model what it is to be a caring, Christian community in the 21st century.

My involvement at St. Mark's, the broader church, local community, and beyond

At St. Clare's, everyone seemed to do everything over the years. I also served on the vestry for a term, which included a year as People's Warden and the stewardship chair. I was part of the praise band, serving one year as the main pianist and selecting the music for worship for three years (when we were in transition with our vicar and sharing clergy with other churches). At the time of our merger, I was the backup pianist and a reader.

My focus at St. Mark's has been on being fully present when at worship and events. My Saturday teaching schedule was more flexible this past year, which meant being able to join the St. Mark's Book Club. It has been refreshing to participate in some of the Taize services on Zoom and I've been a cohost for the Zoom coffee hour. I have filled a vacancy on vestry since this summer, serving on the Finance Committee and being the vestry liaison to the Stewardship Committee.

My vocation, avocation, and /or occupation...

My vocation is mentoring and teaching adults who are interested in or already working for public and nonprofit organizations. I worked in city government, including ten years at the City of Chino, before completing a PhD in Political Science at Claremont Graduate University. I later worked as a consultant for the City of Chino and as Assistant to City Manager for Rancho Cucamonga before being a full-time faculty member at the University of La Verne in 2008. I'm currently Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Master of Public Administration program. I teach graduate courses in public policy, budgeting, statistics, ethics, and our master's

capstone course. I'm also on the board of directors for a property tax consulting firm that serves most of the cities in the state.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest, networks I have to share

My gifts are more administrative. In local government, I most enjoyed developing new programs so that they would be sustainable in the long-term. I also had a half-time administrative position at ULV in the past and chair our faculty budget committee. I'm active in local government professional networks and also provide commentary to local and national media on election and government issues.

Other information that I would like to share

My work schedule varies from term to term, usually with a combination of evening and Saturday classes.

I've been part of two amazing pilgrimages. One was to Iona, Lindisfarne, and northeast England. The other was to Wales and eastern Ireland.

My perspective on church worship is very ecumenical. I've attended churches affiliated with other denominations and appreciate a wide variety of music. The Episcopal church and ELCA are home.

Worship and church activities are welcome respites from committee and administrative work, so I turned down previous invitations to join the vestry. Because of the pandemic and transition with the school, it would be helpful to assist St. Mark's at this time.



Vestry Candidate Autobiography

Sharon Muehlbacher

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Mark's

Ed and I have attended St. Mark's for the last ten years. I was baptized as an infant and confirmed outside the Episcopal Church. I will go through the confirmation process with the Episcopal Church, with my confirmation by the Bishop in April 2021.

What I love most about St. Mark's

I knew from our first visit that St. Mark's was a special place. I could feel the warmth, loving and non-judgmental environment. I really enjoy the thought-provoking sermons and interactions with other parishioners. St Mark's commitment to the Haiti Partnership, the Foothill Family Shelter, and other outreach programs shows the heart of the church.

My involvement at St. Mark's, the broader church, local community, and beyond

I have been a member of St. Mark's Book Club for five years, and have been a Coffee Hour Co-coordinator for the last two years.

My vocation, avocation, and/or occupation

I recently retired from my position as a Math Lecturer at Cal Poly Pomona. I also worked as a mechanical engineer and environmental engineer before staying home with our boys.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest, networks I have to share

I naturally lean towards organization/management roles. I could bring this inclination, as well as my work and life experience to the Vestry. I learn quickly and believe that I could contribute positively. I think working behind the scenes on the nuts and bolts operations of the church would be a good fit for me to contribute to our parish community.



Vestry Candidate Autobiography Dean A. Billman

1. When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Mark's.

I became a member of St. Mark's in the winter of 1993. We moved here to Upland, CA from Cincinnati, Ohio where I was a member of Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati from 1983 through 1993, and I was a member of the Vestry my last two years. The Calvary Episcopal Church itself was sponsored by Mr. Proctor of Proctor and Gamble (the Gambles were Methodists, and they wintered in Pasadena in their Gamble House on Orange Grove Blvd – down the street from where we live now – small world!)

2. What I love most about St. Mark's

When I first set out to find a church here, I was intent on visiting every church in the area and choosing one. My observation of Calvary was that it sat empty six days a week, only open on Sunday. It was a beautiful church with Tiffany windows, but it was not fully utilized. The first Sunday I came to St. Mark's I was delighted to see the St. Mark's School on the grounds, and full of life seven days a week. This was the church I was looking for. That is what made me come and love St. Marks. These are tough times for everyone, and I would love to see what we can do going forward after the Pandemic is over.

3. My involvement at St. Mark's, the broader church, local community and beyond.

I am an active member at St. Marks. I am a LEM, a member of the coffee guild with my wife Karen and have been the chair of the St. Marks Legacy Society. I have been a Diocesan convention delegate around 1995, a vestry member from 1993-1995 (I think) and co-chair of the St. Marks Auction Dinner from 1994-1995. That was hard work. As a financial advisor for a large global investment firm, I specialize in foundations and retirement income planning, which allowed me to help create the Legacy Society (upon selling the assistant rector's home in 1995) by establishing the fund at the DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust of the Los Angeles Diocese). I have also advised and guided the St. Marks School Investment Fund from 2011 through 2020.

4. Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's.

I live and work from Pasadena since moving from Upland to Pasadena in 1998. I have many clients and friends who live in the Upland area, and often come to see them during the week for lunches. I also use several local tax consultants and attorneys to help my clients in the Inland Empire, and often offer references to parishioners who need some personal financial advice. I have participated in our stewardship drives over the years, and even was invited to Uganda at the invitation of the new Uganda Bishop who watched my stewardship presentation one Sunday. I think Haiti is worthy of a visit someday to see and support St. Andres.

5. Other information I would like to share.

I want to support St. Marks as I am able, and I have always enjoyed its unique warmth and sincerity of our Priests and parishioners. Being a Vestry Member allows me to help in an official manner, and I want to thank Kay Alexander for asking me to become a member.