

Vestry Candidate Autobiography- Nick Adams

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

I was raised in the Greek Orthodox church. I joined the Episcopal Church and St. Mark's when my wife Morgan and I were married here on January 3, 1997.

2. What I love most about St. Marks

St. Mark's is my church family. I was welcomed warmly when I joined the church. I've been given opportunities to grow in my faith and as a leader. This is the church to which I always find myself returning.

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

Beyond just attending Sunday services, I first developed a deeper bond when I joined the handbell choir. I played handbells on and off for almost twenty years. Later, at the invitation of the late Lee Harris and Loyal Nixon, I served for two years as the Vestry Clerk. It was there that I began to develop a greater understanding of the leadership of the church and management of parish affairs. My two children attended St. Mark's Preschool and the school. I began attending the Men's Breakfast group and eventually chaired that group. I also joined the choir and still enjoy singing with them when my schedule permits me to.

I am also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ontario-Montclair. Kiwanis is an international service organization dedicated to serving the needs of youth in the community. I was a member of their high school organization, Key Club, and it opened my eyes to the need for volunteerism and community service. I have been a Kiwanis member since 2002.

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

I have no great gift to give other than myself. I enjoy people and consider myself very social. I have an interest in re-imagining and reactivating the Men's Breakfast Group and continuing to maintain a strong relationship with the preschool, both of which serve to broaden the larger St. Mark's community.

5. Other information I would like to share

At present, I work an evening shift, so I would not be available for weeknight meetings. As I understand, the current format is meetings via Zoom on Sunday afternoon.

I am looking forward to serving the parish and helping St. Mark's grow and thrive, and I thank you for this opportunity.

Vestry Candidate Autobiography- Karin Brown

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

I was baptized Episcopal as a baby, but grew up and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. I joined the Episcopal church in 1990 after Jim and I got married. He was raised Catholic, and after we got married, we both agreed to join the Episcopal church to raise our children under one faith/denomination. We became a member of St. Marks in 1996 when we moved to Alta Loma from Santa Monica. Prior to joining St. Mark's, we were members of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Westwood for six years.

2. What I love most about St. Marks

I love the fellowship of our faith community at St. Mark's. I also appreciate the liturgy and am moved by the knowledge that I am part of a worship community that extends back in time (a long history) and across the world in present time (the collective energy of corporate worship). I am also very thankful for the spiritual leadership and guidance of Rev. Keith. I am willing to serve on the vestry again to support him and our parish.

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

I have been an active member of St. Mark's since I joined our Church in 1996. When our kids were small, I taught Sunday School and served on the "founding board" of the Preschool. I have served on the hospitality committee (coffee host) for over 20 years and continue service in this ministry. I formally served on the flower guild and baked communion bread for several years. I previously served on the Vestry for a three-year term. Currently, I am a member of Daughters of the King and serve as Vice President, previously I served as the DoK secretary. I also serve as a LEM and a reader. In terms of the broader Church, I studied for four years with Education for Ministry (EFM) with a group at Trinity Church, for my own spiritual edification. I recently served on a discernment committee to support a fellow parishioner on her spiritual path. I am also active in the Cursillo community and currently serve as a member of the Secretariat.

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

I have been in academia for over 30 years and have a dual doctorate in Psychology and Social Work. I was a professor and taught for 16 years and have been in administration for 14 years. I taught courses in institutional racism and poverty, psychosocial assessment, family therapy, social work practice with groups—to name of few subject areas. I conducted research and published in the areas of psychosocial adjustment to childhood cancer, social support and chronic life stress, and health disparities. I currently serve as Associate Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies. My clinical MSW practice experience was as a medical social worker and preventive caseworker for public child welfare. I am willing to use my practice, research and administrative skills to benefit St. Mark's, as needed.

5. Other information I would like to share: I have been married to James R. Brown MD for 30 years

We have three young adult children, Lauren, Oliver (wife Becca) and Natalie.

**Vestry Candidate Autobiography
Kimberly Cortner**

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

I began attending St. Mark's in the spring/summer of 2006 and was confirmed in the Episcopal Church the following year. I was raised Seventh-day Adventist and was baptized at the age of ten. I had spent about 15 years away from any faith practice or church affiliation when I started searching for a church. The Episcopal Church seemed to be the best fit because of its support of women clergy, lay ministry, the LGBTQ+ community, and its "three-legged-stool" foundation for belief. I have been an active member since my first week of attending St. Mark's.

2. What I love most about St. Marks

In addition to what I stated above, I love St. Mark's in particular for its energy and atmosphere—the warmth of the people, the opportunities for all to minister in some way, the music, and the beauty of its sanctuary. These things appealed to me from the first week. Over the years, my appreciation for all this has increased, and I have a great admiration for the work of the clergy and lay leaders. I love worshipping at St. Mark's, care deeply about the welfare of church, and serve faithfully and joyfully.

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

At St. Mark's I have sung in the choir and helped with Taizé services, served at coffee hour, been on the Altar Guild, been an acolyte and LEM and Visiting Eucharist Minister, helped with both Christian education and communications—including leading confirmation classes and regular quiet days and writing or editing some of the internal publications. I am a Daughter of the King and served one term as President of the Sancta Sophia chapter. I now assist in the office one day a week and am coordinator for ushers and greeters. I also traveled to Haiti in 2013 with a group from St. Mark's. Last year, I helped found the Commission for Racial Justice and Equity and have gone through both the My Work to Do and Sacred Ground programs.

In the broader church, I am now serving as Diocesan President of the Daughters of the King. I have attended General Convention and been a volunteer page in the House of Deputies, attended and volunteered at a number of Diocesan Conventions before becoming a lay delegate for St. Mark's for the past two years.

In the local community, I have supported the Foothill Family Shelter by volunteering in their children's reading room and donating annually for Thanksgiving baskets and family-to-family Christmas gifts. I have contributed to and volunteered my time to TOUCH ministries and, with the Daughters of the King, helped fill and distribute bags of hygiene products to Laundry Love clients. I have helped in whatever way I can when I can.

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

I believe I have been blessed with some of the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as several of the spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament, such as administration/leadership, teaching, and hospitality. I have skills in the areas of music, writing/editing/designing, computers and technology, organizing events, and facilitating small groups. Through the Stillpoint organization, I have been trained and certified as a spiritual director/companion for both individuals and small groups. I have been on their faculty for over six years as facilitator and coordinator for the one-year Spiritual Journey program. I have completed the first year of EfM and the requirements—

Submitted by Kimberly Cortner 12/01/2021

classes both audited and taken for credit—for a certificate from Bloy House in spiritual education and formation. I will graduate in 2022. I sang for over fifteen years in the Mountainside Master Chorale. I am active with the Celebrate Recovery program hosted at Hillside Community Church in Rancho Cucamonga. Now serving as one of their ministry leaders, I have just finished co-leading a year-long women's 12-step study group. I am a certified facilitator and hold workshops in making SoulCollage® cards and Touchstones through A Window Between Worlds. I attend many in-person and online retreats, including those offered by Stillpoint, Spirituality & Practice, Abbey of the Arts, the Center for Spiritual Renewal in Santa Barbara, and Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. My background includes being a college English teacher for over 25 years at several area colleges and universities, both public and private. I have BA degrees in music and English, an MA in English, and completed PhD coursework, passed qualifying exams, and advanced to candidacy at the Claremont Graduate University. I have also held full-time professional positions in public relations and communications for La Sierra University and Simi Valley Hospital, and part-time administrative positions for academic departments. I am a certified reading instruction specialist and have tutored dozens of students, including quite a few over the years who were students at St. Mark's. I am energized and fed by travel, music, literature, art, and nature.

5. Other information I would like to share

Over the years of 2011-2012, I was led through the discernment process with a parish committee at St. Mark's. I was discerning whether the call I felt was for ordained or lay ministry. Though I was supported by my committee to continue the process toward ordination to the diaconate, I was not approved by the vestry. At the time, I was a functional alcoholic, and it was a providential grace and blessing that I did not proceed along that course. The result of going through the discernment process was that my lay ministry at St. Mark's and beyond has been greatly expanded and enriched. Also, I will celebrate my four-year sobriety date early in 2022. God has led me on an extraordinary personal spiritual journey, and I am thankful for God's grace, forgiveness, and purpose for my life. I will try to serve the St. Mark's vestry honestly and faithfully, committing my time and talent to help lead our church into a bright future. I am particularly interested in the areas of communications, membership, and hospitality.

Vestry Candidate Autobiography-Barbara Nalbach

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

I began attending the Episcopal church in 1973 when I met David Nalbach. We were married at Christ Church in 1974. When we moved to Claremont, I became a member at St. Ambrose and when we moved to Rancho Cucamonga, I became a member of St. Clare's. When St. Clare's closed in 2015, I became a member of St. Mark's.

2. What I love most about St. Marks

I love the warm, family feeling I see here at St. Marks and the way people work together to get things done.

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

At St. Mark's, I am a member of the choir, the praise band, the lector's guild, the flower guild, the Daughters of the King, a volunteer in the office on Tuesdays, and I share leadership of the Fiber Arts Guild with Edwina Golightly. I have attended the diocesan convention as a delegate or an alternate at various times. I have served on the vestry at St. Ambrose and on the Bishop's Committee at St. Clare's.

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

I worked as a volunteer, teacher's aide, substitute, and teacher in California schools from 1970 to 2009, so I have skills I have acquired there. My mind and my voice are my gifts and I have some fluency with generating solutions to problems.

5. Other information I would like to share

I try to listen for messages from the Holy Spirit.