



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Candidate Profile

The following people were nominated to stand for election to the St. Paul's SLC Vestry

- Kim Pilger
- Julie Best
- Peter Christie
- Katherine Zavodni
- Ellen King
- Christian Larsen

2017 Vestry Elections



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Kim Pilger

As a 'cradle' Episcopalian born in Tremonton, Utah, my parents raised me with the value that you go to Church wherever it makes sense and you feel comfortable. In my 56 years living in 7 cities around the country I've had the opportunity to participate in multiple faiths and grow and become more committed and appreciative of the core values of the Episcopal Church. Scripture, Tradition and Reason - - - that adds context to all those times my dad said, "God gave you a brain, use it!" I have lived in Salt Lake City for 24 years. I am a working, single mom of two daughters Emily 23 and Alexandra 20.

I come to this Church to find solace, learn and be inspired to live into my Christian values. I participate in all the worship services on any given week based on my schedule. I treasure this congregation. We are such a diverse tapestry of loving individuals and families - young and seasoned, multi-cultural and we possess a broad rainbow of values. The first time I walked into our sanctuary I knew and felt that I was 'home'. The gift of our music the choir offers weekly provides special inspiration. Over the years I've enjoyed experiencing and growing in faith through our service programs helping families that have rented our homes, the Pantry and seeing Emily participate and return a changed person from her mission trip to New Orleans shortly after Katrina.

I've enjoyed participating in the Vestry and believe my 34 years employment at IBM have assisted in bringing business insight to the business of the Parish. Additionally, I've learned what it takes to keep the lights on, hearts open and souls fed. I'm looking forward to continuing my service. We find ourselves in the middle of turbulent times. We need to continue to ensure we provide a place for parishioners to find peace, fellowship and spiritual inspiration. From the strength of that foundational support of our St. Paul's community we must lean in and find additional ways to be an inspiration and support to the broader community at large.



2017 Vestry Elections

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Julie Best

Number of years at St. Paul's – 5

If applicable, Spouse/partner's name, and names/ages of children –

Husband, Hunter Best; Daughter, Emerson Best (age 5)

Please share a little about your religious background and how you came to be at St. Paul's –

I was raised in the Methodist Church in North Carolina. As I became an adult I left the church and organized religion for quite some time, while simultaneously obtaining an academic minor degree in Religious Studies. Motherhood opened me up once again, to the presence and importance of God and Jesus Christ in our lives. One year after Emerson was born, through a series of formative, unexpected and life-changing events, God appeared in my life as big as day, answered a prayer that I have been praying for my entire life. In the process, God quite literally directed me to the St. Paul's Family. I truly experienced the magic and mystery of God when I found the St. Paul's family. My journey over the last 4 years has been a dynamic one filled with God's Grace and one that continues to build a deeper, more complex and fulfilling relationship with God and the St. Paul's Family.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish-

Over the last 4-5 years, I served a two year term on the Vestry, was on the St. Paul's Preschool Board and was a regular volunteer at the food pantry. Two years into my three year term, I was diagnosed with a chronic illness and resigned all the above to focus on my health and family. I am now recovered and am serving as a lectionary and greeter. I am also a member of the St. Paul's Dinner Group and Emerson, my daughter is involved in the Sunday School Program. I am hopeful to finish out the 3rd year of my former vestry term running for this position now.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)-

I am interested in the church engagement - with adults, with children, and with the community at large. My primary area of fulfillment today is through our worship services and my own volunteering activities. I realize this is different for everyone and even changes for me over time. I am interested a deepening understanding of how our Church Community can more directly engage with itself and with its children. How can we find new and personal ways to demonstrate and fuel the presence of God using our community? I am also, heavily involved in some volunteer activities in our wider, Utah community. There is not a day that I engage this role where I don't find God. I am interested in further developing St. Paul's community outreach to do God's work. This might look like deeper focus on our Pantry, a more concentrated involvement in the state health care discussion, or something completely different. There is certainly no shortage of need.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry-

If elected; this will serve as the 3rd year of my prior 3 year term, which I had to leave early due to a health condition. I bring with me the experience of my prior vestry term, which also coincided with our separation from the preschool and Fr. Emil's retirement, making me well versed with some of the more complex issues that can present themselves to vestry. I have a relatively diverse religious background and education, which makes me consciously focused on tolerance and being open to new ideas and different ways of thinking. I work diligently to appreciate perspectives different from my own. Professionally, I rely on substantial communications skills and the ability to negotiate resolutions in often challenging circumstances.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's-

My dream for St. Paul's is for us to use this community full of passion and talent to continue to develop a dynamic place to discover God and feed the spirit so that parishioners and the outside community both associate our parish with God's love and God's work. Some specific areas of interest that I have include developing a parish outreach program that extends beyond our visits to home-bound parishioners to include a support network for any parishioner in short-term or long-term need. This can look like a card, a meal, an hour of child care, a run to the grocery store, or a cup of coffee. I also look forward to the continued development of our youth program. We have such a beautiful Sunday School program, how do we keep our younger children in relationship with God and their Parish as they approach one of the most challenging phases of life? I would also like to explore a deeper relationship with the Utah community outside of St. Paul's to do God's work. I have always loved that St. Paul's has a reputation in the wider community that associate us with our good works. I would like to broaden that outreach to have an even greater impact on our community.



2017 Vestry Elections



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Peter Christie

Number of years at St. Paul's – 15 years

If applicable, Spouse/partner's name, and names/ages of children - Charles Black

Please share a little about your religious background and how you came to be at St. Paul's -

I grew up as a Lutheran, Missouri Synod in Upstate New York. I feel that I grew up with a strong faith but had a hard time finding a place that I felt like home and was not very involved with any church for a very long time ...until I began attending St. Paul's. I initially began attending because of Charles, but came to feel a strong connection to this community immediately. I feel that St. Paul's has a diversity and welcoming spirit that respect tradition but isn't afraid of pushing the boundaries now and then.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish-

I attend services on a regular basis. Serve as a Sunday school teacher for the junior high age group and arrange the flowers for High Holiday services. I have served on vestry in the past and was part of the vestry when we did our search for our current Rector.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)-

I am interested in many different areas of Parish life and our Community. I'd be open to seeing where we have needs that I might be able to bring my strengths to.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry-

I feel that I bring openness and am easy to approach. I am well connected to many different communities and interests in SLC. I feel that I am a person who can look at both sides of issues and mediate well. I enjoy looking at the "bigger picture" of things and tend to remain optimistic.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's-

I dream that St. Paul's will continue to be a safe haven, a place of welcome, a beacon of hope, a source of peace, and an instrument of change and growth, that we respect our past, without fear of discovering new paths for our future.



2017 Vestry Elections



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Katherine Zavodni

Number of years at St. Paul's-

My family has been worshipping at St. Paul's since we moved here two and a half years ago.

If applicable, Spouse/partner's name, and names/ages of children.

Zack and I have been married for going on 11 years. We have two children, Greta (7) and Simon (3).

Please share a little about your religious background and how you came to be at St. Paul's-

I am a cradle Episcopalian, having grown up in St. Luke's parish in Durham, North Carolina. I decided I wanted to commit myself to the Christian faith as a teenager, primarily influenced by my participation in Young Life in high school. I subscribed to a more evangelical/non-denominational faith practice in late high school and through college, volunteering as a Young Life leader for 3 of my college years. As I grew into young adulthood, however, I began to recognize that my heart and my faith are most at home in the Episcopal Church. I was transitioning back toward regular worship with an Episcopal parish when I met Zack on Ash Wednesday, 2005, who happened to be another life-long Episcopalian (though we did not meet at church; ask to hear that story sometime!). We began attending church together in Chapel Hill, NC and have attended many wonderful Episcopal parishes in our various cities of residence over the years, including Chapel Hill, Ann Arbor, and Minneapolis. When we moved to Salt Lake City (Zack's home town) in 2014, we were not necessarily committed to returning to St. Paul's, the church home of his childhood, wanting rather to find the church family that was the best fit for us and where we felt our children would be best nurtured in the faith.

Having tried on other local Episcopal churches in our first weeks here, we knew on our first visit to St. Paul's that we would be right at home in this family of faith and that our children would be embraced as a vital part of parish life. We are so thankful for this community.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish-

We have enjoyed participating in the regular worship cycle at St. Paul's and have volunteered and contributed to various events and services, especially those related to the children's ministry. I have also been involved with the emerging "in-reach" ministry, particularly with the meal preparation activities (I have been both a provider and a grateful recipient of this ministry in recent months!).

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)

I am particularly interested in fostering opportunities for our parishioners to use their unique gifts to contribute to a church life that is vibrant and dynamic, and for our church family to unify and engage with our local community, serving and sharing God's love with our neighbors. I also have an interest in supporting the growth and livelihood of the children's ministry.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry-

I enjoy engaging with people and facilitating the implementation of ideas and plans. I thrive on the challenge of identifying needs and collaborating in creative problem solving. I can also contribute strong communication and writing skills.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's-

I would love to see St. Paul's be a place where everyone who walks through the door feels welcome and wanted. Where people of faith come to support and love each other and grow in the faith, and where people can also come just to explore questions and doubts and feel no less warmth and welcome in this community. My hope is for all of us to be able to come together, people of all ages, races, and backgrounds, with all our strengths, weaknesses and differences, and embrace one another as we are, thereby embodying God's love for us, while also challenging one another to continue striving for holiness, service, and love in Christ's name.



2017 Vestry Elections



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Ellen King

Number of years at St. Paul's - 9 years

Religious background and how you came to be at St. Paul's –

As a child I attended the Anglican Church and later the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 1990 my husband and I emigrated to USA. We did not attend church at that time as we were feeling disappointed in the attitude of the church toward the non-white population in Johannesburg. In 2006 my husband passed away and I felt more and more the pull to return to the church. I attended St. Paul's on a trial basis and felt very comfortable with the friendly welcome I received. I was especially impressed by the sermons given by Father Emil. The messages were applicable to every day experiences and were helpful in adjusting to life on my own.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish -

I attend Sunday service most Sundays. I enjoy the Book club and the Knitting group. Have made friends with parishioners with similar interests. I contribute to the Coffee Hour during the year and help with social activities where possible. Have helped Geoff Ellis with the garden pruning.

What are your areas of interest -

Meet and make welcome new members to the church. Socialize with the friends I have made and try to assist anyone with special needs. Hope that the Women's auxiliary re-conform and meet once a month for lunch. This group has not met for the last few months due to members' ill health. To continue to help in the garden. In particular I enjoy the very fine music that Charles Black provides us.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry -

Particular interest in the more senior members of the congregation. Would be willing to visit senior members who request contact with the church and may be unable to attend service.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's -

To continue to welcome all who come to St. Paul's and to grow the numbers of families with children who are learning to love God through their Sunday school classes.



2017 Vestry Elections



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Christian Larsen

Number of years at St. Paul's-

I have been attending St. Paul's for four years.

If applicable, spouse/partner's name, and names/ages of children

My husband is Jacob Newman.

Please share a little about your religious background and how you came to be at St. Paul's

I was raised in another denomination, in which I was quite active and served in numerous capacities, including various leadership roles. However, with time I didn't feel accepted there and in my early twenties began searching for a new place of worship. I was invited by friend and roommate (who formerly sang in St Paul's Choir) to attend the 2012 Christmas Eve service, and I have been attending ever since. I was profoundly touched by the openness and generosity of the St Paul's community and felt a connection in the timeless liturgy of the Episcopal Church. In August 2016 my husband and I were married at St Paul's by Kurt Wiesner. We truly love St Paul's and consider it our spiritual home.

How are you currently participating in the life of the parish-

Together with my husband I worship weekly, volunteer for coffee hour occasionally, and recently assisted with the holiday pantry giveaway. We have already discussed volunteering regularly with the pantry, and we are always eager for more opportunities to be involved. We've established many dear and lasting friendships within the parish and have strived to be a part of the St Paul's community.

What are your areas of interest (worship, peace and justice, finance, etc.)-

I am interested in how St Paul's can engage with our broader community to promote justice, peace, and acceptance. As I've endeavored to bring my friends to St Paul's over this past year I have also become more and more interested in effective and innovative evangelization, especially if it can be done in tandem with, or as a happy consequence of, social activism designed to lift up and empower disadvantaged people. A reason I feel so at home here is the liturgy and theology of the Church. I can be quite bookish, and am interested in Christian theology. Because of these things I am very interested in the worship here at St Paul's as well.

What strengths will you bring to the Vestry-

Everyone brings a unique and important perspective. I hope my perspective as a millennial, LGBT, former Mormon, newlywed will be a valuable one. I have much leadership experience in a religious context from my former tradition that will assist me as a vestry member. But my enthusiasm and love for this church and congregation may be my greatest strength, and I desire to see St Paul's continue to thrive.

What are your dreams for St. Paul's-

I want to see St Paul's continue to be an accepting and welcoming home for everyone. I hope that we can reach out to more people in need, to not only invite them into our community, but also actively work to improve our broader community and empower the oppressed among us.

Additionally, St. Paul's is pleased to announce the following officers for 2017:

- **Cindy Kurowski, Sr. Warden**
- **Sara Baese, Treasurer**
- **Position of Clerk, to be named**

The Jr. Warden, as required by our bylaws, will be appointed at the first meeting of the new Vestry following the Annual Meeting.



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Welcomes you.**