

*We are delighted to report that 56 individuals were recommended to the Vestry Nominating Committee as potential candidates! The Committee has identified eight candidates whose unique skills, gifts, and experience are well suited for this important leadership position at this time in our life together. You will be choosing four of them to serve for the next three years. Please take a moment to learn more about them. We ask your prayerful discernment in this process.*

## Fiona Ahrweiler

I am originally from Western Australia where I was raised in the Anglican church. My parents were active members of St. Margaret's Church in Nedlands, and my father was a member of the vestry for many years. I have been living in the US since 1989 and am a dual-citizen. I have been a member of St. James' since 1996 when my husband, Rob and I moved to the area from Long Island, NY. We have been married for 26 years and have two grown children, Kaitlyn and Braeden, both of whom were baptized at St. James.

I am a member of the Corner Chorale and also act as a Lector and Intercessor when needed.

I was drawn to the St. James' family the minute I stepped foot in the door! I was enveloped in a swathe of God's love, friendship and acceptance which has never wavered and has only grown stronger over time. As a practicing registered nurse of 36 years, I care deeply for the wellbeing of others, have felt cared for at St. James, and hope to be that for you. I am honored to accept the nomination to your Vestry and if elected, plan to be a representative voice for the people of St. James' Church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



## Sherri Dennis

Sherri Dennis is an active member of St. James', where she enjoys singing in the 11:15 choir, participating in coffee hour, and working on the church gardens. She and her husband René live on a farm just outside of Leesburg, where they host the St. James' vegetable garden, whose volunteers grew over 1,000 pounds of produce for Loudoun Hunger Relief in 2020. Besides gardening and singing, Sherri has a passion for working with seniors. Sherri is a registered nurse and an attorney, with over 25 years of combined experience in her two professions. A graduate of the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Campus, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, she is experienced in many areas that focus on the care needs of the elderly: from primary hands on treatment in critical care to coordinating healthcare services through case management.

In 2003, Sherri furthered her education by earning her law degree from George Mason School of Law and focused her practice on litigating elder abuse in longterm care facilities. Since 2013, Sherri has focused her experiences as a nurse and attorney on assisting clients in a wide variety of elder law matters including: estate planning, end of life issues, residency needs, coordinating private and public resources for funding care.

In her spare time, Sherri can be found out riding her paint horse, an inherited passion from her father who also enjoyed horseback riding. She also loves hiking and hunting for wildflowers.



## Denny Farrington

Denny Farrington joined the Episcopal Church in 1996 at Trinity Church in Greeley CO where she was one of the Youth Ministers, leading mission trips and teaching Sunday School. She was officially received by Bishop Ted Gulick in the Diocese of Virginia and became a member of St. James Church. While a member of St. James, Denny has contributed to the Church teaching Sunday school. She served on the Altar Guild for 5 years, was a Youth Minister for 8 years, during which she led and organized a number of mission trips for the youth of St. James, and was a member of the Vestry.

Denny currently serves on the Committee on the Diaconate for the Diocese of Virginia and is a member of the Paxton Board of Visitors, also through St. James. Denny has a Masters Degree in Social Work and currently works for Loudoun County managing residential services for people with mental health issues, developmental and intellectual disabilities.



## George Garlick

My name is George Garlick, and my wife Sandy and I have been attending St. James' since August of 2007. We attend the 11:15 service as we sing in the choir. I distinctly remember our first time in attendance at St. James'. On our way home, we discussed that we had found a church that provided a sense of awe and reverence that we had been seeking.

I was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, and Sandy grew up in the Methodist Church. Because music originally brought Sandy and me together, it was important for us to find a church that had a strong music component in its worship tradition. Fortunately, we found that in an Episcopal Church in Sewickley, PA where a friend was the choir director. When we came to St. James' on that Sunday in August, we felt like we were home. We were impressed by music we heard, from both the choir, and the congregation. We were equally impressed by the quality of the sermons we heard each Sunday. There was also a presence of a variety of vibrant ministries. It was obvious to us that the parishioners at St. James' were committed to serving the local community as well as the world.

We began our involvement at St. James' by our participation in the 11:15 Choir. Dr. Cooksey and the members of the choir were welcoming and made us feel at home. Now that we have both retired from being elementary school teachers in Fairfax County, we have more time to serve in other ministry capacities.



We both serve the Pastoral Care ministry as Lay Eucharistic Visitors. I have also been a delegate to the Northern Piedmont Region, formerly Region XIII of the Diocese of Virginia. In that capacity, I attend meetings that take place 5 times per year. The churches in the region collaborate and share ideas about a variety of ministries as well as providing financial help when it is feasible. For example, several churches in our region have pre-school programs, and participate in food sharing programs. I currently serve as Treasurer in the region. Also, as a delegate, I am charged with attending the annual convention of the Diocese. I have attended three conventions in this capacity, the most recent being a ZOOM experience.

If I am elected to the Vestry, I look forward to serving the parishioners at St. James' in our time of transition.



## Gary Gegenheimer

I have been attending St. James since 2004 and for the past few years have been serving as a usher and a reader at the 11:15 service. My wife, Debbie, and I live in Oak Hill, Virginia. We have a wonderful son, Chris, and an equally wonderful daughter-in-law, Mona, who work in the international development field and are retiring to the U.S. this week from a long-term assignment in South Africa.

I am a financial regulatory lawyer and have my own consulting practice. I have worked mainly internationally since 1995 and have had my own practice since 2013. I spend most of my working time on projects in developing countries, mainly for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

My main task is to help regulatory authorities, such as central banks, with writing their banking laws, regulations and policies (I tell people I am like a plumber, only I fix leaky banking laws). My many years of working with people with widely diverse backgrounds have provided me with the opportunities and skills to listen to, and carefully consider different points of view and to develop solutions that will be acceptable to all concerned parties. I believe that I could bring these same qualities to the table as a member of the St. James vestry. I am honored to be considered.



## Christopher Hatch

My name is Christopher Hatch. I was Baptized at St. James' in the late 1950's. It is said that my father bought my four other siblings to Rev. Frank Moss and asked him to "take these heathens and do something with them." I remember Sunday school in the Catacombs down the step from the Parish Hall. Well, he did with the help of the Community of St. James'. My oldest sister Nancy was one of the Philadelphia ordination of woman paving the way for the future ordination of women.

I serve on the Healing Ministry, Intercessory Prayer Ministry; I also serve as a Licensed Eucharistic Minister. I attend the 9 AM service and the Wednesday Noon Eucharist & Healing Service. I also served on the Vestry some years ago. Janis and I were married at St. James' thirty-eight years ago. We have two grown daughters Charlotte and Sarah who blessed us with five grandchildren. Currently I drive a school bus (retirement) and farm (love).



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## Tamsyn Knight

I grew up in NZ and the UK, and moved to the US eleven years ago this May. We began attending the nine o'clock service at St James on our second day here, sitting in the back pews with the other young families. Both of my children attended St James Preschool, Sunday School, and my younger son will finally be old enough to join our Youth Group this fall.

I'm excited to see how St James will grow and flourish after our long COVID year of togetherness-apart, and I look forward to seeing our pews fill up again.



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## Mike Scott

My wife Kathy and I have been coming to church at St. James for over 15 years, and were confirmed in 2009. Over the years we both felt moved to serve our church in ways we could best contribute: Kathy as a reading carnival camp and Sunday School teacher, and me as an usher, a founding member of the Men's Service Ministry, as well as serving various projects and committees - preparing/serving food for breakfasts & dinners, cleanup of the grounds, painting the walls of these wonderful buildings. We've raised our three children in St. James (and dream about having their weddings here someday..), and I was blessed to twice travel to Honduras with two St. James' sponsored missions. In addition to the wonderful friends I've made, my fondest memories are of the dinners held in support of the Jeremiah's Table ministry providing me the opportunity to share God's love with some of our most marginalized neighbors.

I would like to continue my service to St. James as a vestry member, ensuring we make the best possible choice in our new Rector, welcoming and acclimating the Rector to St. James, and providing the necessary guidance/stewardship as we reemerge from the pandemic and our transition period. My goal is for St. James to once again be the significant, considerable, thriving pillar of the episcopal and Leesburg communities it once was. A place where individuals and families love to be and want to be. If chosen to serve, I will bring new ideas to achieve our collective goals; I will seek continuity while also embracing change as we enter this new chapter in the evolution of our beloved St. James community.

