



## **Thanksgiving for Vestry's Service & Thanksgiving for Nominees**

### **Dear People of God,**

Vestry members share much of their time, talent, and treasure to steward the gifts you share through St. Alban's. Please join me in thanking Tanyia Conner, Yvonne Cyphers, and Dawn Piper for their three years of faithful service, especially in the midst of transition!

I am pleased to announce Amy McWhorter, Don Pitts, and Steve Martel as nominees for St. Alban's vestry. These parishioners will be confirmed on Sunday, March 18, during the Bishop's Visit. I have spoken with Bishop Dena's office and all is well.

I asked Amy, Don, and Steve: "Why do you want to serve? What skills do you bring? Where do you see God working in your day to day life?" I find their responses beautiful. Please ponder these words for yourselves, pray for St. Alban's, and come to the annual meeting next Sunday, January 21, 2018.



### **Amy McWhorter**

I am looking for a meaningful way to apply my skills in non-profit and public management. I have been attending St. Alban's for about two and a half years. I believe that the church has a lot of opportunity to bring even more good into our corner of the world and I would very much like to be a part of that mission in a deep way. I also recognize that as a small parish, we face certain hurdles and I would love to be able to collaborate with others to find creative solutions that allow us to remain mission-focused as we grow both physically and spiritually.

I have professional experience in public administration and working and managing volunteers as well as capital projects and project management. One of my gifts is in public engagement and working with members of the public to fully realize and understand their priorities and perspectives and reach consensus. I truly enjoy understanding the basis that informs individual positions and finding common ground and paths forward.

Of late, I see God working in encouraging a deeper sense of self-awareness, which has driven me to look outward and seek opportunities to do work for good in the community. I also see God working in providing me peace and greater trust and faith as my family has faced particularly stressful situations over the past several years.



## Don Pitts

I moved to Austin in 2003. As part of my spiritual journey, I found the Compline service at St. David's and utilized that experience for spiritual rejuvenation. It was my first experience with the Episcopal Church and it was enriching and fulfilling beyond my ability to articulate. We adopted a beautiful little girl from Ethiopia about 7 years ago and we wanted her to be raised in the Episcopal Church. We visited St. Alban's on several occasions and feel in love and like with the everyone. St. Alban's is my church home. It is where my heart is and I want to do all I can do to serve it.

I understand operations and what is involved. I also have a great track record dealing with reconciling various constituencies. I'm a great listener and make decisions based on facts, although sometimes the best decision is not the most popular.

As I get older and fortunately wiser, I see God in everything I do. Most notably and recently, patience and gratitude. It requires much work on my part, but I can feel His presence and His hand on my shoulder as I continue on my spiritual path.



## Steve Martel

My wife and I were married in Tyler by the rector of a church which my wife and I absolutely adored. When we moved to Austin, we spent a lot of time trying to find the sense of community which that church offered. When we finally visited St. Alban's, by chance, it was because we had just moved to this part of town, and had driven by the cross on the hill several times. We checked it out, and it was a match made in heaven. I would like to give something back to St Alban's in a different way than we have so far. My wife served on the vestry before at her old church in Tyler, and having gotten the down-low, I believe it is something that I believe I can do well.

We've been at St Alban's for a few years now, and I believe I have a sense of the community needs and personality. I have excellent organizational skills,

and can research just about anything well enough. (I've made spreadsheets while trying to decide where to go out to eat.

I see God in our friends and family, I see god in this community and in many others, and I see God in the hearts and hands of the church around the world. Lately, in my life, the presence of God was made clear in blessings and answered prayers with a timing too perfect for coincidence.



We still have 1 open vestry position. We do have someone who is thinking and praying on this ministry for this year. Still, perhaps you want to explore this ministry this year or in the years to come. Nominees need to be at least 18 years old, confirmed/received members of St. Alban's (can be confirmed on 3/18), and parishioners who work, pray, and give for the spread of God's kingdom through St. Alban's.

Vestry nominees must affirm the following:

"I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; and I accede to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church."

2018 Vestry Expectations-Love Jesus, Love St. Alban's like so:

1. Faithful attendance in worship, learning, and major parish wide events.
2. Wear nametag and introduce yourself to people you do not yet know.
3. Prepare for, participate in, and follow up from monthly vestry meetings as well as any smaller group committee meetings.
4. Bring your whole self to the table.
5. Actively listen to others, especially those with whom one differs, and practice kind, constructive feedback.
6. Serve once a month as Vestry Person of the Day.

Contact Rev. Erin (512-297-9981/Senior Warden, Dr. Gwendolyn Hustvedt (512-290-2122).