

Annual Meeting & Elections

261ST Annual Parish Meeting • February 2, 2025

Take a Look at These People!



Dear Friends:

Here it is – the most read missive of the year – the bios of candidates for elected leadership positions at the church. We love our people and love learning about them.

The Nominating Committee has done a phenomenal job. You know already each one of these siblings in

Christ is beyond qualified and should be called, but that is not how it works. I am reminded that all the wardens during my tenure were not elected to the Vestry on their first try. These candidates have already done a great service to the parish by offering themselves for election, regardless of how the vote goes.

The vote will “go” as the first order of business at the Annual Meeting at 11:30am in Morrill Hall on February 2, following the 10am liturgy. You can vote in-person or online, as the Annual Meeting is in a hybrid format, and you can join on a Zoom webinar. We will send out a link or you can join in from our website. While the votes are counted you will hear about the life, finances, and future of the parish from Senior Warden Stan Twardy, Junior Warden Janet Prill, and Treasurer Tim Dann.

We realize this timing can be challenging for those with kids. There will be extended childcare for kids ages five and under. This year there will not be entertainment for older kids since parents have the option of voting from wherever they may be, whether at home or the hockey rink. If you have any questions about this, I hope you will be in touch with the office: (203) 966-4515.

This Annual Meeting will mark the end of Stan Twardy's six-year tenure as Senior Warden, a period that has been both challenging and fruitful for the parish. His humble, supportive, and sagacious leadership helped to guide us through the pandemic and the Inspired by Love capital campaign and to bring us to the vitality we experience today. He is always the first to praise another and to raise up the communal life of the parish. Now it is our turn to praise Stan and to raise him up. We will do that with a Vestry Commendation during the 10 o'clock service.

I hope to see you there. It will be a great day to be together and give thanks for our blessings.

Maranatha,

The Reverend Peter F. Walsh
Rector



261ST Annual Parish Meeting • February 2, 2025, 11:30AM Agenda

1. Call to Order and Prayer – The Rev. Peter Walsh, Rector
2. Opening Business – Motions & Resolutions
3. A Word About the Election – Stanley A. Twardy, Senior Warden
4. Nominating Committee Report – Suzanne Harrison, Nominating Committee Co-Chair
5. Election
 - Officers
 - Vestry
 - Nominating Committee
 - Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegates
6. Senior Warden's Report – Stanley A. Twardy
7. Annual Appeal and *Inspired by Love* Campaign Report – Janet Prill
8. Treasurer's Report – Timothy F. Dann
9. Election Results – Suzanne Harrison
10. Closing Prayer, Blessing, and Dismissal

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Officers



JANET PRILL, SENIOR WARDEN

Family: Spouse: David Prill; Children: Derek and daughter-in-law Katherine, and grandsons Charlie & George; Vanessa and partner Jeff;

Skylar and daughter-in-law Nomi; Wyatt and partner Claire

St. Mark's Member Since: 2010

St. Mark's Activities: Junior Warden for the past three years, Lector, Inspired by Love Endowment & Capital Campaign Leadership Team, former Chair of Outreach Commission, May Fair volunteer.

Occupation: Formerly with IBM for 20 years in various sales and marketing management positions.

Community Activities: Current Trustee of the Aloha Foundation, a non-profit organization in VT that runs summer camps and year-long outdoor programs for children and families.

Education: Harvard University, A.B.

Personal Statement: Over the past fifteen years, I have found purpose in my involvement at St. Mark's and have enjoyed working with the many wonderful colleagues and friends who create this special community of faith. I continue to be inspired by the talent and dedication of our exceptional clergy, staff, lay leadership and so many parishioners who give of their time and experience to bring the church's ministries to life. It's a privilege to be able to work, pray, and share the ups and downs of life with the good people of this parish, and I commit to offering my best in this leadership role as together we shape the future of St. Mark's.



MARK THORSHEIM, JUNIOR WARDEN

Family: Spouse: Margot, Children: Max and Ben

St. Mark's Member Since: 2004

St. Mark's Activities: Junior Warden (2019-2021), Vestry (2016-2018), May Fair Chairman, Racial Reconciliation Committee and Civil Rights 101 Pilgrimage, Youth Mission Trips, and other lay committees

Occupation: Managing Director, DH Capital, a subsidiary of Citizens Bank

Community Activities: Current Board Member for Career Resources, Inc., CT's leading workforce development non-profit agency, which has supported thousands of individuals in our state including returning citizens

Education: Susquehanna University, B.S. Finance

Personal Statement: St. Mark's has been a beautiful energy in my life and my family's lives for over 20 years. I am blessed to be "fully alive" through the love of the Lord and support of our tremendous clergy, staff and congregation. It would be an honor to serve our parish in a leadership role.





TIM DANN, TREASURER

Family: Spouse: Angela Dann;
Children: Leila (22) and Jack (19)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2010

St. Mark's Activities: Church

Treasurer, May Fair Treasurer; past Sunday School teacher, Vestry member, Greeter, Coffee hour host

Occupation: Partner, BWT Trading LLP

Community Activities: I have previously served on the Investment Committee and Alumni Council of Dickinson College, as Treasurer of New Canaan Softball, as Secretary of the City Missionary Association of New Haven, baseball coach, softball coach, flag football coach

Education: BS Physics & Mathematics, Dickinson College; MS Finance, MIT

Personal Statement: St. Mark's is a special place - in large part due to our clergy and congregation. Gifted people looking to do good in the world as the hands of God. I join you in any way I can.



LIBBET FIELD, CLERK

Family: Spouse: Scott Field; Children:
Jack (12), Kate (10), Ellie (8)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2021

St. Mark's Activities: Current Clerk of

the Vestry, Community of Hope - Member of the Visitation Ministry. 2024 Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegate.

Occupation: Formerly with the Department of Justice as a Human Resources Program Manager.

Education: BA in English Literature, BA in Religion, University of Rochester.

Personal Statement: Since 2021, St. Mark's has been a place of welcome, refuge, and inspiration for my family. I am grateful for the relationships and experiences St. Mark's has brought to my life. It has been a privilege to serve as your Clerk and to learn from our talented, devout, and dedicated clergy, staff and lay leadership. I welcome the opportunity to continue as Clerk of the Vestry, in service to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.



Vestry Candidates



ALEXANDRA (ALIX) ARMSTRONG

Family: Spouse: Jeb; Children: John (7yrs) and Brooke (5yrs)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2018

St. Mark's Activities: May Fair volunteer, member of Stewardship & Development Committee (~2yrs), and regular Sunday church goer.

Occupation: I have spent nearly 20 years working in financial services executive search (recruiting), namely within the alternative asset management space.

Education: BA in French & Communications, Vanderbilt University 2003

Personal Statement: Since joining St. Mark's in late 2018, I have felt so grounded by and welcomed in this supportive, loving community. Without any specific ties to New Canaan, upon joining St. Mark's, I quickly felt at home and connected with the clergy as well as older and younger parishioners. It feels like our extended family, so it would be a true honor and privilege to join St. Mark's vestry and aid in the church's mission. I welcome the opportunity to serve.



JOHN HARRISON

Family: Spouse: Suzanne; Children: Jack, Chris, Eddie

St. Mark's Member Since: 2003

St. Mark's Activities: Stewardship & Development Committee (2024, 2025 Annual Fund campaigns), Usher, Lector, May Fair volunteer

Occupation: Partner, Ernst & Young (EY)

Education: Vanderbilt University (BA), Georgetown University (MBA)

Personal Statement: St. Mark's has been our spiritual home and a source of community and fellowship for our family for over 20 years. We have celebrated many occasions at St. Mark's, including three baptisms, three confirmations, one renewal of wedding vows, and too many World's Greatest Christmas pageants to remember. Our boys have been involved in the Youth Ministry for over a decade. Various members of our family have participated in Pilgrimages, May Fairs, Vestry (Suzanne), Capital Campaign leadership (Suzanne), Stewardship & Development, ushering, reading, and greeting. After helping to execute the Annual Fund campaign for each of the last two years, I believe that I have a deeper understanding of the operations of the church and the opportunities and challenges in front of us. I look forward to putting all of this experience to work in a new capacity at St. Mark's. I am thrilled to be nominated to the Vestry candidate slate and, if elected, would be honored to serve our congregation.





JOANNE RENWICK

Family: Spouse: Dale Renwick; Children: Sheeree, Sergio, Shantel; Our Gems, Rhea (6), Zaila Rosa (3), Nolano (20 weeks)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2023

St. Mark's Activities: Altar Guild (Team C) April 2024 to present; May Fair Volunteer

Community Activities: Registered Volunteer (SPEF) Stamford Public Education Foundation; Building One Community (BIC) Foundation of Hope; Food Pantry, Shippan Ave.

Occupation: College Professor (ESL) English as a Second Language @ Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY. (Former Professor of Business, FL.)

Education: B.S. in Business Administration, Business Management, Nova Southeastern University, FL; Master of Science in Higher Education (M.H.Ed.) College Administration and Leadership, Purdue University, Global. Certifications: Women in Leadership, Cornell University; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Bentley University.

Personal Statement: Since relocating from Florida to Connecticut, my family and I have been on a heartfelt journey to find a church that is not just a place of worship but a true spiritual sanctuary, a place where we and my young grandchildren can grow in faith and be part of a warm, Christ-centered community. After visiting several Catholic churches in the Stamford area, we struggled to find the sense of connection and belonging we had left behind in Florida. That changed when our daughter discovered St. Mark's Episcopal Church. From the very first service, we were embraced with an authenticity and kindness that left us speechless, as though we had been members of this community for decades. The clergy, including Father Peter, Father John, and Reverend Elizabeth, exemplify what it means to lead with grace, compassion, and charisma, creating a nurturing environment that reflects the heart of Christ's love. St. Mark's has become the spiritual home we longed for, and it would be my honor to serve as a Vestry Member, continuing to support and contribute to the vibrant, welcoming community that has so profoundly blessed my family.



PETER F. RYAN

Family: Spouse: Renée Ryan, Children: Helen Ryan (2 yrs)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2023

St. Mark's Activities: Stewardship & Development Committee (2024 - present), Mayfair: Chairperson support deputy and Mayfair volunteer (2024 - present), "Monday's with Merton" participant (Fall 2024), Wife Renée is a volunteer member of the St. Mark's Choir

Community Activities: Long-time volunteer at RowNewYork, a youth rowing program in New York City that targets underserved youth communities with an emphasis on college matriculation and career success (since 2007, in various capacities).

Occupation: Finance / Private Equity professional; Previously with Blackstone, Strategic Value Partners, and Credit Suisse.

Education: Princeton University, Bachelor's of Arts, Economics, 2007. The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Master's in Business Administration, Finance, 2013

Personal Statement: My wife and I joined St. Mark's shortly after moving to New Canaan in 2023 and have been amazed at the strong community of faith, service, and communal fellowship that defines St. Mark's. We knew at once that we had found our spiritual home and look forward to watching our daughter continue to grow surrounded by the many guardian angels of the parish. St. Mark's is a truly special place of faith and ministry and I would be honored to serve on the Vestry, working with the incredible clergy and innumerable lay volunteers to further the mission of the parish.





JOHN SEXTON

Family: Spouse: Katherine, Children: William (18) and Beatrice (15)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2017

St. Mark's Activities: Since 2018, I've volunteered at the May Fair

every year, contributing my time to support the event. I also designed and built St Marks Live, a website that was dedicated to hosting the videos and live sermons from the church, helping to share its message with a broader audience.

Occupation: Product Design and Marketing Executive

Education: BA Columbia College Chicago

Personal Statement: I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the Vestry. If chosen, I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute my time and skills to support the church and its community. Serving in this way would be a meaningful chance to give back and help our church continue to grow and thrive.



CATHY UHLEIN

Family: Spouse: John Uhlein, Children: Wyatt (Beth), Copley (6) and John Wyatt (2) Uhlein, Chase (Christina) Uhlein, Maggie (Andrew), Quigley (2.5) and Scottie (6 months) Dunlap, Carrie (Robb) Vossler

St. Mark's Member Since: 1988

St. Mark's Activities: Sunday School Teacher (5+ years), Community of Hope (5+ years), Meals with Love (2+ years), May Fair Volunteer (20+ years) and Needlepoint Group that created the new chapel kneelers (2+years)

Community Activities: Red Cross Canteen, West School Spring Book Fair Chair, and Team and Room Mother multiple times, Hamilton College Parent Committee.

Occupation: Teacher at Grace Church School, NYC, Housewife, and substitute teacher New Canaan Schools

Education: BS Bucknell University, Masters in Education, New York University

Personal Statement: Saint Mark's has been a big part of my life and my family's since we moved to New Canaan in the fall of 1987. My children were baptized, raised and confirmed here and now my four grandchildren have been baptized here and are part of our Sunday School and Preschool. It has become our home and a place I prize. Thus I am honored to be nominated to serve on the vestry. I want our church to continue to grow and to allow us to follow in God's way by serving our families, our community and those in need. I hope and pray that I can help us toward that goal.



Nominating Committee Candidates



JEB S. ARMSTRONG

Family: Alix Armstrong (spouse), John (7), Brooke (5)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2018

St. Mark's Activities: My wife, Alix, is on the Stewardship Committee. Our

kids enjoy both Sunday School and the World's Greatest Coffee Hour

Community Activities: Board of Trustees & Head of Finance Committee, New Canaan Nature Center

Occupation: Financial Advisor/Investment Manager: Clear Harbor Asset Management

Education: BA: Haverford College, MBA: NYU-Stern

Personal Statement: We are so fortunate to call St Mark's our spiritual home. From the moment we first set foot, we knew this is where we wanted to be. Every week Peter, Elizabeth, and John provide rare insight into our faith. And every week we find joy in the fellowship of coffee hour. I am delighted to be considered for a role at St Mark's and am eager and ready to serve if elected.



JOHN MICHAEL BAIN-COLON

Family: Jose & Charlotte Bain-Colon

St. Mark's Member Since: 2015

St. Mark's Activities: Gospel Garden Project Manager, St Marks May Fair-

Strawberry Shortcake Baker and Old Faithful Volunteer

Occupation: Head of Sales

Education: I'm still learning. Every. Single. Day.

Personal Statement: I am willing to serve on the Vestry Nominating Committee to help steer our community forward, solely focusing on the love and acceptance of Jesus to all who walk in his ways.





GABY BEECHER

Family: Spouse: Duke Beecher; Children: Lili (21) and Charlotte (18)

St. Mark’s Member Since: 2008

St. Mark’s Activities: Vestry Member (2022-2025), member of the toy tent

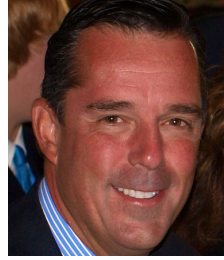
team at May Fair, member of the sponsorship committee at May Fair, former co-chair of coffee hour ministry, former member of the flower guild, former member of the SMC youth committee, former costume maven for the World’s Greatest Christmas Pageant.

Occupation: SVP of Operations at New Canaan Music

Community Activities: Current board member - League of Women Voters of New Canaan; Current board member - New Canaan Chamber of Commerce; 2020-2021 - National Charity League, Canaan Parish Chapter; 2008 - 2020 - parent volunteer at Saxe Middle School and South Elementary School; 2013 - 2017 - parent volunteer coach for New Canaan Lacrosse

Education: B.A. Communications, Lynchburg College

Personal Statement: St. Mark’s has been a thoroughly enriching experience for me since moving to New Canaan. The first time I attended the 10:00am service I instantly knew that I had found my spiritual home, but I had no idea how many other wonderful opportunities SMC would offer to me and my family. SMC is truly a community of people who provide support and friendship in so many ways. I have made so many wonderful friends through the pre-school, in the kitchen during coffee hour, at Maranatha house churches, in the flower room, and at May Fair. I truly can’t count the ways in which SMC has touched my life. Serving on the vestry has been an amazing experience for me. I would be honored to continue serve this incredible community on the nominating committee.



RAB KER

Family: Spouse: Elizabeth Ker; Children: Madeleine, Walker, Abigail and son-in-law, Dawson Merryman.

St. Mark’s Member Since: 2012

St. Mark’s Activities: St Mark’s Choir

and Vestry, May Fair Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity
Community Activities: Trustee, Old Faithful Antique Fire Engine Company; Trustee; Board Member, Friends of New Canaan Hockey; President, Burns Society of NYC; Past-President (97th) and current Scholarship Committee member St Andrews Society of New York; Past-President, St Thomas Choir School Alumni Board; Chair, Scottish Committee & 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign, First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan (FPC); Session Member, Elder, Community Outreach, Building and Finance Committees, FPC

Occupation: Since 2011, Managing Director/Partner at Westwood Capital, LLC

Education: B.A in Political Science and History, University of Vermont; Medieval History Studies University of St Andrews (Scotland); MBA, Finance and Marketing, Kellogg School, Northwestern University.

Personal Statement: Reared in New Canaan, my family worshiped at the Presbyterian Church where my father co-founded FPC’s annual Scottish Heritage Sunday service. I was confirmed at St Thomas Church in NYC while attending St Thomas Choir School and married at Christ Church in Greenwich. My/our spiritual rebirth was initiated with our children’s confirmation at St Mark’s, further propelled by Ned Tipton’s music ministry and galvanized by the warm embrace of St. Mark’s vibrant parish. “All we like sheep” are blessed to be shepherded by Peter, Elizabeth and John. This flock member was privileged to serve on the vestry and would be honored to serve further as a member on the Nominating Committee.





KERRY ROBINSON

Family: The lucky husband of Ellen and the proud dad of two amazing daughters, Anna and Drew, who keep me on my toes.

St. Mark's Member Since: 1995

St. Mark's Activities: I have been engaged with the St. Mark's community for over 30 years, wearing many hats... Having served on the Vestry twice, been Mayfair Chairman for 3 years and co-chair for 3 years, served on the Outreach Committee, and currently member of the Altar Guild. Additionally, served as St. Mark's representative to the Episcopal Bridge Builders of Fairfield County.

Occupation: General Manager of NACE (The National Association for Continuing Education), a division of Haymarket Media Inc., that delivers educational programming to clinicians in primary care, oncology, pulmonology, gastroenterology and metabolic medicine.

Education: BS History, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Personal Statement: St Mark's has been my spiritual home for over 30 years. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve St. Mark's on the Nominating Committee.



LORI WYCKOFF

Family: Spouse: Stephen; Son: Nick

St. Mark's Member Since: 2001

St. Mark's Activities: Current: Pastoral Call Team Leader (Community of Hope); May Fair volunteer (~20 years); Past: Pastoral Pup handler (4 1/2 years); Vestry member and Preschool Liaison; Nominating Committee Chair; Co-Director of Children's Ministries; Sunday School Teacher (15 years); Pageant Costumes Coordinator and Sewer (many years); Newcomers Committee Co-Chair (2 years); Community Life Commission (1 year); Coffee Hour Chair (2 years); Messiah Reception decorations (1 year); Lion's Den volunteer and display consultant; House Church, Book Group and Study Group participant

Occupation: Retired; Past Director of Store Design for Tiffany & Co.

Education: BA in Interior Design from the University of Wisconsin Stout

Personal Statement: I strive to live into our church's vision statement: "to live to give for the love of the Lord" and I find great opportunity to live out that possibility here at St. Mark's.



Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention



LIBBET FIELD

Family: Spouse: Scott Field; Children: Jack (12), Kate (10), Ellie (8)

St. Mark's Member Since: 2021

St. Mark's Activities: Current Clerk of the Vestry, Community of Hope -

Member of the Visitation Ministry. 2024 Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegate.

Occupation: Formerly with the Department of Justice as a Human Resources Program Manager.

Education: BA in English Literature, BA in Religion, University of Rochester.

Personal Statement: Since 2021, St. Mark's has been a place of welcome, refuge, and inspiration for my family. I am grateful for the relationships and experiences St. Mark's has brought to my life. It has been a privilege to serve as your Clerk and to learn from our talented, devout, and dedicated clergy, staff and lay leadership. I welcome the opportunity to continue as alternate delegate to diocesan convention, in service to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.



LISE LEIST

Family: Jeff, Zach, Anya, Danielle (daughter in law) and grandson Hudson

St. Mark's Member Since: 1993

St. Mark's Activities: Vestry 2021-24, Chalice Minister, Sunday School Teacher, Lector, Greeter, Mayfair, served on Altar Guild

Community Activities: School House Apartments Board, P.E.O Sisterhood, Trustee Boston College, Cradles to Career- United Way, Greenwich Audubon Board

Occupation: Diversity Consultant

Education: Pine Manor College; Manhattanville College, Cornell University

Personal Statement: "There is always a time for gratitude and new beginnings." (J. Robert Moskin). I share this for it has always been my mission to make a difference not for credentials but of true concern. Hence, I am grateful for whatever helps my spirit grow. St. Mark's has surpassed all gifts in giving growth to my soul and spirit. This along with being an integral part for my family and which we are also thankful. Without hesitation I praise all for I have been touched by the kindness of many. For what I do today and right now it is my hope that it will have an accumulated effect on all tomorrows. When it comes to serving, it's an opportunity to take care of others. Confident in another's good faith, trust, constancy and affection. My heart and faith continues to grow with love and care from the seeds planted by St. Mark's Church.





St Mark's
Episcopal Church
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

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New Canaan, CT 06840
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261ST Annual Parish Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

10AM Holy Eucharist
and State of the
Parish Address

11:30AM Annual Meeting and
Elections in Morrill Hall
and on Zoom

JOIN US!

