

# 2026 Voting Guide

*Vestry Nominee Information*





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# REPORT OF THE PARISH NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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The Parish Nominating Committee hereby reports that the individuals listed in this book have been nominated to stand for election to the vestry of The Church of St. John the Divine on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Six (6) persons shall be elected to the vestry for three-year terms to replace members whose terms have expired; one (1) candidate will be elected to fill a one-year term. These individuals have each consented to this nomination and have given assurance that, if elected, they will serve. Information on how and when to vote is listed below and will also be made available in the Sunday Featured Five card, the Grapevine, and at [sjd.org/vestryelection](http://sjd.org/vestryelection).

Submitted by:

Herschel Hamner

Senior Warden and Chair of the Nominating Committee

## **VOTING SCHEDULE:**

### **Electronic Voting: January 18 at 6 pm – January 25 at 12 pm**

- A link to an electronic ballot will be emailed on Sunday, January 19 at 6 pm.

### **In-Person Absentee Voting: January 20 – 25**

- Members may come onto campus to cast ballot via scantron at the reception desk Tuesday – Friday, January 20 – 23, 9 am – 5 pm.

### **In-Person Voting: January 18 & 25**

- In-person voting will take place on Sunday, January 18, and Sunday, January 25. Voting will be available outside the worship spaces after the 5 pm service on Sunday, January 18, and after the 8 am, 9 am, and 9:15 am services on Sunday, January 25 as well as at the front desk through 12 pm.

*Parish election results will be made available no later than January 27.*

# VESTRY NOMINEES

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The names of the nominees are listed in random order, as determined by lot, as required by The Church of St. John the Divine Code of Procedures for Parish Meetings and Elections.

Stirling Bomar

Tommy Wright

Travis Wofford

Morrow Evans

Mary Morgan Stevens

Park Carter

Gardner Dudley

George Webb

Amanda Pickering

Chris Hairel

Melissa Moss

Ashley Alexander

Kori Li

Stewart Black





## Stirling Bomar

**OCCUPATION:** Banker at JP Morgan

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE**

**PARISH:** 8 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I grew up in a family with deep ties to the

Episcopalian faith. Both my grandfather and uncle served as

Rectors of their respective churches (Trinity in Columbia, SC and All

Saint's in Mobile, AL). My mother is currently serving on the Vestry of my childhood church (The Advent in Spartanburg, SC), and she has previously led their search committee.

Our family moved to Houston from Atlanta in 2016, and we became members of St. John the Divine shortly thereafter. I have been on the associate vestry for the past two years and have been actively involved in Rally Day and ushering. I am also currently going through the Cornerstone Fellowship program, serve on SJD's Generosity Committee and recently completed the Presence Project.

My wife and our three children are all active at the church. Jill is part of the Hope of Glory Women's Bible Study, leads the St. John's School 5th grade Bible Study at SJD and serves as a Snack Shack Volunteer. Mae (14) is in her final year at ROBS, is currently going through the confirmation process and serves as an acolyte. George (11) attends St. John's School and is part of Cub Scout Pack 55. Lala (7) was baptized at SJD, is part of the choir and also goes to school at SJS, after previously attending First Steps Montessori. We are regular attendees at the Awesome Worship service, where our kids have the opportunity to actively participate in the service, including as readers.

### **BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

It's an exciting time at St. John the Divine with the onset of the Master Campus Plan (SJD 2030). I would be honored to be part of the SJD Vestry, and I am committed to diving into the role and giving it my undivided attention.



## Travis Wofford

**OCCUPATION:** Attorney

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 3 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** My family joined SJD shortly after COVID lockdowns, and it has become our spiritual home. Our children have been shaped here in Awesome worship, Sunday school/

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, choir, VBS, and UCAL sports and we are deeply grateful for the church's commitment to faith, family and community. I've learned faith and service from church leaders in the Cornerstone program, associate vestry, Lay Eucharistic Minister, ushering, the Red Lion men's group, and other activities. Professionally, I advise companies and charities navigating growth, change and financial responsibility. I care deeply about building institutions that are faithful to their mission and strong for the future.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

This church gives my family so much, I would like to give back. Like you, I am personally invested in the success of this church. SJD is in a pivotal season of growth, with major construction increasing a need for careful stewardship of church traditions and finances. God willing, I hope to help the clergy and vestry in their clear communication, fiscal responsibility, and careful discernment to navigate this time in a way that respects the needs of our constituents, whether families, seniors, singles, community, clergy, staff or otherwise.



# Mary Morgan Stevens

**OCCUPATION:** Admissions Evaluator, Stanford University

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:**  
6 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am a lifelong Episcopalian who grew up in the Diocese of Alabama at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mobile. The example of my parents—both vestry members—instilled in me a lasting commitment to parish leadership and service. St. John the Divine has become our family's church home, and I have been privileged to serve in many roles. I have served on the associate vestry for the past two years (rolling off in January) and currently serve as a stewardship campaign chair. I have also been active on the Episcopal Church Women board, contributing to hospitality roles and leading the revival of the Moms and Munchkins ministry. My children, Darby and Coleman, participate in SJD's children's programs and sing in the Cherub Choir, where I volunteer as Choir Mom.

Beyond the parish, I am committed to community service and fundraising. I chaired the Fall Friends Luncheon for L.I.F.E. Houston—an organization founded through the leadership of St. John the Divine—which provides emergency nourishment for infants, and this year's event was its most successful in history. I serve in leadership positions with the Children's Museum, including fundraising for its annual gala, and I am the Reunion and Annual Fund Chair for Washington and Lee University's Class of 2011. My husband, Reed, and I are active members of The Children's Fund. I have also recently served on the Junior League of Houston's Charity Ball Committee (2025 Underwriting Chair) and Centennial Fundraising Committee. Finally, I am a long-time Breeders Greeters Committee member with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be considered for vestry service and would welcome the chance to support the parish's continued growth, mission, and ministries.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

My service on the associate vestry over the past two years has given me a deeper understanding of SJD's ministries and opportunities. It also made me realize how strongly I feel called to give back on a broader scale. My involvement in Stewardship, ECW, children's ministries, and the associate vestry has provided a full view of parish life and a sincere desire to support its growth and vitality.

I am energized by this moment in the life of our church. The upcoming capital campaign and season of change present exciting possibilities and important responsibilities. I hope to support leadership, help the parish navigate this period with unity and purpose, and assist in achieving the long-term goals that will shape SJD's future. I also hope to help the parish connect with members and the broader community in ways that nurture faith and spiritual growth. I believe I can encourage growth in stewardship by modeling faithful, consistent, and joyful giving, while inspiring others to deepen their connection to the parish's mission. St. John the Divine is our family's spiritual home, and it would be a privilege to help strengthen its mission, ministries, and impact for years to come.



# Gardner Dudley

**OCCUPATION:** Forge Equity Partners

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 4.5 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:**

I grew up in Comanche, TX, and have lived in Houston for over 25 years. Elizabeth and I have been married for 22 years and are the parents of three boys. Will is 17

and a Junior at Strake Jesuit, and Thomas and Hudson are 14 and are 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Annunciation Orthodox School, and all three are active in youth ministry and serve as acolytes. Prior to joining St. John's, we were members of another Episcopal church in Houston for a number of years, where I served as an usher. At St. John's, I have had the privilege of serving as a lead usher, an acolyte advisor and Chair of the generosity committee for the past year. Outside of St. John's, I have been involved with the Chinquapin Preparatory School for many years, and we dedicate time to supporting our boys' schools and activities.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

We joined St. John the Divine in the Spring of 2021, and it has been a blessing to find a church home that has meant so much to our family. SJD has provided all of us with many opportunities to serve the church and the community and support Christ's work. We have benefited from the service of many others at SJD, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve the church as a member of the vestry.



## Amanda Pickering

**OCCUPATION:** Philanthropy Consultant

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 9 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am a lifelong Episcopalian. I grew up attending St. Phillip's Church in Uvalde, Texas, part of the Diocese of West Texas, where I was baptized, confirmed, and served as an acolyte. After graduating from The University of Texas, I moved to Washington,

D.C. to work in the Bush Administration and nonprofit sector. During my tenure in D.C., I attended Christ Church, Georgetown and served as a frequent volunteer with Georgetown Ministry Center, a consortium of Episcopal Churches in the area that establishes pathways to stability for people experiencing homelessness. I moved to Dallas to work for the Bush Library in 2009 where I attended Church of the Incarnation. When another career move brought me to Houston in 2016, I visited every Episcopal church inside the loop in search of a church home. I have always believed that church is a place where EVERYONE should feel welcomed and each person who walks through its doors should feel like they belong. It only took one visit for me to recognize that warmth and welcomeness in SJD and I knew it was the place for me. I joined as soon as I could. When my husband, Dan, and I started dating, he also began attending SJD and celebrated his confirmation in 2017. We participated in marriage classes at the church prior to our wedding in 2018 and continue to attend Sunday school classes and small groups. Our daughter, Merrill, spent 3 years at First Steps Montessori and was part of the Cherub Choir until she aged out this year and I hope she will be an acolyte when she is old enough to join. This month marks the end of my service with the associate vestry, where I have really enjoyed learning about and serving the church. My faith as an Episcopalian has always been a major force in my life – being a Christian and being part of the fellowship of the Episcopal church has kept me rooted in what really matters in life – faith, family, purpose, and friendship.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

I am so grateful for all the church has given me and my family. We have built wonderful friendships, began our daughter's educational journey, and continued to strengthen our faith at SJD. It is a place where we feel at home and I would love the opportunity to give back through service on the vestry. I have spent 25 years working in nonprofit and private philanthropy focusing my energy and efforts on making a strategic impact through fundraising and grantmaking. I would like to put the skills I have gained and lessons I have learned during my career to work for SJD as we navigate the first major capital campaign in many decades. I care about SJD and I want to actively contribute to our continued growth as a congregation and in our mission to be a light for the city. It would be an honor and privilege to serve the church, and I am grateful for your consideration.



## Melissa Moss

**OCCUPATION:** Retired

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE**

**PARISH:** 30+ years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I was christened in the SJD Chapel, and my husband Chad and I were married here. Our two sons Chadwick and Reed were also christened in the Chapel. So many of the most meaningful moments of my life have happened at SJD. My sweet mother's ashes are interred in our beautiful Garden of Resurrection, which is so meaningful to me. I have made many wonderful friends here. My service through the years has varied from teaching in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday school program and actively helping with the Courts of Honor for Troop 55 to being a Prepare for Life Bible Study small group facilitator, an associate vestry member and a board member and President of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). In the Houston community, I was an active volunteer at our sons' schools, St. John's School and St. Pius X High School. I am a longtime volunteer with the Garden Club of Houston.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

I am deeply honored and blessed to be nominated. SJD has been an anchor in my adult life. So many amazing parish and clergy members have influenced and guided my faith walk to be a more meaningful and rich experience with the Lord. I have experienced how joyful and obedient service in our church community turns around and blesses me and my family. I am committed to doing what I can to help SJD do God's work in our community in whatever capacity, to support our clergy and ministry partners so that SJD is a welcoming Light to the City.



## Kori Li

**OCCUPATION:** Private Equity Investor / Principal at Siltstone Capital

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 10 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I've been part of the St. John the Divine community since 2015. My wife, Sandy Ma, and I have two young daughters, Eleanor (Ellie), who is two and a half, and Claire, who arrived this past November. Ellie is currently at First Steps Montessori, and Claire will (hopefully!) join her once she turns eighteen months.

SJD has become a spiritual home for our family. I was a part of the 2024 Cornerstone class and currently serve as a Stephen Minister, an associate vestry member, and a Family Matters small-group leader. I'm also part of a men's Bible study, while Sandy and I host a weekly Wednesday night bible study for young and growing families. We both value the opportunity to support and engage with the church community, and serving at SJD remains a top priority.

Away from SJD, I'm a Principal at Siltstone Capital, a Houston-based private equity fund, and am on the Board of Directors at Clean Royalties. Prior to Siltstone, I was an Investment Banker at UBS Investment Bank and held multiple roles at Anheuser-Busch Inbev. I earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and an MBA from Rice University.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

SJD plays a central role in our growing family's life. From First Steps to small groups to the lifelong friendships we've formed, SJD has become a second home for us. Because of that, I feel called to give back and help guide our parish in the years ahead.

I believe that I can bring a perspective that reflects the experiences of younger families and have ideas on how we can welcome them, help them feel rooted, and invite them into the same meaningful involvement that has shaped our own journey here.



# Tommy Wright

**OCCUPATION:** CPA tax consultant

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:**  
42 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** My wife, Connie, and I were married at St. John the Divine in 1983; our children, Catherine and Ellie, were baptized and confirmed at SJD and Ellie was married off site by a St. John's priest in 2016. All three of our grandchildren were baptized at St. John the Divine. Connie and I have been parishioners for 42 years. I served as the SJD Treasurer beginning in the 1990s for 10 years, and during this time I also served on the finance committee and the Memorial Endowment Fund board. Currently, I am serving my second term on the board of the Memorial Endowment Fund and I am also a member of the SJD Capital Campaign Committee. I previously served as a Trustee of Episcopal High School for two terms and was privileged to serve as Co-Chair of the headmaster search committee, finance committee Chair and I was Executive Chair of the board for three years. I continue to serve on the board of Episcopal High School Endowment Fund. Connie served as SJD ECW President in the past.

Connie and I have been graciously blessed by the Lord in so many ways. To that end, we have dedicated our time, talent, and treasure to St. John the Divine and the Episcopal High School community. We look forward to continuing to do so regardless of my role.

My professional career began at Deloitte in 1973 where became a CPA and worked in the tax area. In 1985 I left Deloitte to join two other former associates who had years before formed a local tax boutique accounting practice which later became known as Margolis, Phipps & Wright. In late 2013 we sold our practice to RSM, an international accounting firm. I remained at RSM for 9 ½ years as a Partner until I retired from full time employment April 30, 2023. Since that time, I have been consulting on a part time basis with families and private businesses on tax, financial, philanthropic, family succession matters, and dispositions of closely held businesses. My time since retirement has been filled with consulting and tax-exempt organization board work. I am a board member and committee member at Greater Houston Community Foundation, President of my university Foundation, SJD Memorial Endowment Fund and EHS Endowment Fund. My involvement with Greater Houston Community Foundation and my university Foundation will diminish during 2026.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

The clergy and parish community of St. John's have truly been a blessing to our family as they have nourished and enriched our spiritual lives, and SJD has provided a shelter for us in this broken world. We have experienced and developed many meaningful relationships at SJD over the years and look forward to growing the number. I can dedicate the time and effort to serve my Lord and this church parish and to do what I am called upon to further the work and mission of SJD in God's kingdom. I would love to contribute to the exciting future that is ahead for St. John the Divine. It would be both an honor and privilege if I were to be selected to serve.



## Morrow Evans

**OCCUPATION:** Oil and gas finance

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 25 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** My wife Virginia Evans and I both grew up at St. John the Divine and were married at SJD in 2001. We have two boys (Morrow Jr. – 20 and Gray – 19) that were baptized, received first Communion and spent their entire youth in the many wonderful services/programs at SJD. My service to SJD in the past includes the associate vestry, finance committee and a prior adult education small group leader. Additionally, I am currently serving on the board of Episcopal High School and on the finance committee – where our two boys and I went to high school. Professionally I have been in oil and gas finance my entire career – CFO, private equity and investment banking. Virginia and I spend most our free time either traveling to watch our two boys play college football or sneak away for some time on the water in Rockport.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

For generations our family has been blessed by SJD and we understand how important the prior volunteer vestry members service is to SJD. I am humbled just writing this with the potential to be a member of the vestry at SJD and would be eager to serve if elected. Given the upcoming plans for SJD I do feel like my financial experience combined with my love for SJD could be a small addition to our blessed church family.



## Park Carter

**OCCUPATION:** Senior Vice President of a private Commercial Real Estate Company

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 10 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am a native Houstonian and grew up in the Episcopal Church attending St. Martin's Episcopal Church. My mother and father are very involved in the church and have instilled a great calling in both me and my siblings to participate in various ministries within the organization; I grew up active in the church serving as an acolyte, junior volunteer, and a participant in various other ministry arenas. My wife, Louise Turner Carter, and her family have been members of SJD for many years, and when we had kids we decided to make SJD our church home. I was first introduced to SJD at our marriage prep course with Doug Richnow. Getting to know Doug was a wonderful experience and opened my eyes to all the great things that SJD has to offer the parish and community. In my 10+ years of membership at SJD, I have served on the associate vestry, as senior warden on the usher guild as well as being active in the children's ministry. For the past year I have served as a member of the vestry, serving an unexpired open position. All three of my daughters are involved in the amazing children's choir program and attend Sunday school, VBS, and participate in UCAL sports, and I am excited for them to continue to be young leaders within the SJD community. Our oldest children attend River Oaks Baptist School where my wife and I are active members of the volunteer community. We are also very active in and passionate about many local charities throughout Houston.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

SJD has been incredible to me and my family and I want to continue to serve. I have greatly enjoyed my time in the various ministries at SJD, especially over the past year with my time on the vestry. I often come home from vestry meetings and tell my wife just how incredible SJD is with its outreach and the enormous impact it has on our community.



## George Webb

**OCCUPATION:** Intellectual Property Attorney / Professor of Engineering Leadership at Rice University

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 3 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am a lifelong Episcopalian. Born and raised in New Orleans, I joined Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church my

freshman year at Rice, and Susannah and I were married there in 2002. We transferred here to SJD in 2022 and have thrown ourselves whole-heartedly into this thriving parish since day one. I'm an enthusiastic lector and usher, part of the grill team for Summer Sunday Nights and Oktober on the Boulevard, and a vocal supporter of this faith community every chance I get. In 2024 I completed the Cornerstone Fellowship leadership development program and helped SJD host the Global Leadership Summit. Most recently, I just finished a successful term as head of the associate vestry, which was a powerful opportunity to work in close collaboration with our clergy, staff, and fellow parishioners on many levels.

I also have leadership experience outside SJD that I believe equips me well to serve our congregation. At Palmer, I was a vestry member for four years, including during a transition between rectors when additional responsibilities devolved upon the vestry. In the community I have been a transformative president of Rice Engineering Alumni, president of the Houston Chapter of USA Lacrosse, and an active board member of the Association of Rice Alumni, Houston Intellectual Property Law Association (HIPLA), Houston Intellectual Property Inn of Court, and Texas Lacrosse Officials Association (TXLOA).

### **BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

I love this church which has embraced Susannah and me so eagerly, and I feel profoundly called to offer my time and talents in its service. The next few years will be critical for SJD. I'm excited about the strengths we have and how we can harness them for the challenges ahead: for example, how to increase our welcome of new members while deepening the experience of long-time parishioners; how to maintain the excellence of our programs during construction; how to ensure our financial footing for the future; and how to connect even more meaningfully to the city of Houston. I would be deeply honored to bring my energy and experience to bear on the issues we will take on in the coming years. If elected, I promise to serve thoughtfully and faithfully, with zeal and gratitude for all that God has given us.



## Chris Hairel

**OCCUPATION:** Consultant

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 19 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I have been a member of St. John the Divine for 19 years. My wife, Eileen, and I are blessed with two sons, James (15) and Jonathan (11), who are all active in our parish life.

As a family we focus together on worship—I am a Lay Eucharistic Minister and acolyte advisor, Eileen and James sing in the adult choir, Jonathan sings in the children's choir, and both boys serve as acolytes.

Over the years, I've served SJD in many roles, including as a youth Sunday school teacher and Confirmation leader, and have helped with multiple youth director search committees. Three years ago I was a member of the Community Engagement Project that created A Lighted Path and I've worked on discernment committees with candidates for ordination. Currently, I serve as a Co-Chair of the stewardship committee and am working on our new partnership with Ascension Episcopal Church.

Beyond St. John the Divine, I've served on the board of Vibrant Faith, an organization dedicated to helping churches develop discipleship programs. My heart is for fostering spiritual growth and community engagement, and I look forward to continuing to serve our parish in meaningful ways.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

St. John the Divine has been a spiritual home for my family for nearly two decades, and this community has shaped our faith in countless ways. I feel called to give back by helping guide our parish through an exciting season of growth and renewal.



## Ashley Alexander

**OCCUPATION:** Non-profit healthcare research (Kelsey Research Foundation)

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** 12 years

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am honored to be considered for the vestry of St. John the Divine. I am originally from Clarksville, TN, and I

moved to Houston fifteen years ago. When my husband and I began looking for a church home, it was clear SJD was it for us. Our children, Thomas and Madeline, were both baptized here. We love attending Awesome Worship with our family, and my daughter adores helping when I usher. I had the honor of serving on the associate vestry and helping with Rally Day. The community of SJD and the opportunities for families to feel at home and at ease within all church services are wonderful attributes of SJD that I hope we can continue to build upon. When encouraging others to join me at SJD, this is a deciding factor that they say they have heard from numerous parishioners.

In the community, I serve on the advisory board for The Health Museum and volunteer as my children's school (St. Francis Episcopal School).

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

Serving in the community is something I've always believed in, and SJD is a wonderful opportunity to give back to our church community and the larger Houston community. SJD welcomed me and supported our family, and I hope to continue to pass forward this to others. It would be an honor to serve on the vestry.



## Stewart Black

**OCCUPATION:** Energy Advisor

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH:** Lifelong member

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ST. JOHN THE DIVINE TO KNOW**

**ABOUT YOU:** I am a multi-generational Houstonian, life-long Episcopalian, who grew up attending St. John the Divine. I began serving St. John's as an acolyte under Rev. Ben Benitez and continued to serve throughout my high school years. My wife Kim and I are blessed with three daughters, Chandler, Audrey, and Margaret, each of whom attended Episcopal High School. After our marriage, Kim and I attended St. Martins Episcopal Church for a brief period, where our daughters were baptized, then returned to St. Johns as our home. Our girls had their First Communion, Confirmation and served as acolytes at SJD over the years.

I have served on the associate vestry of SJD, have enjoyed serving as an usher/greeter, and recently joined the Cornerstone Fellowship class of 2025-2026. I am honored to be serving on the Board of Trustees for Episcopal High School, which was founded and guided by the Diocese of Texas, and I currently serve on the Building and Grounds and Audit Committees.

**BRIEF STATEMENT ON WHY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE:**

St. John the Divine has been such a personal place to me and my family our entire lives. The Lord calls on us to serve and be disciples of Jesus, and this is an opportunity to serve God and His church. I would be incredibly honored if asked to serve on the vestry and contribute to the mission with all my heart.



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