

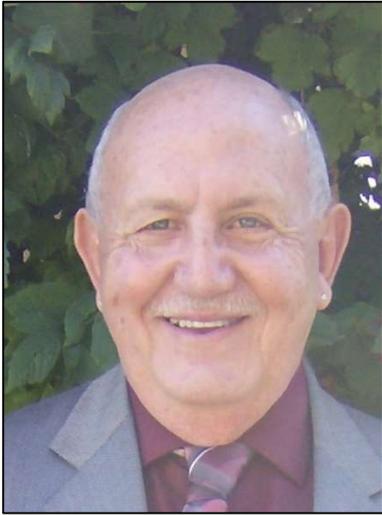
## Parish Leadership: 2018 Vestry Additions

The Vestry, together with the Rector, exercises spiritual leadership of the parish, keeping the vision, describing the mission, and inviting the congregation into ministry. The work of the vestry is grounded in prayer and worship, scripture, and a commitment to Christian service. The vestry is responsible for the legal and financial health of the parish; they act as stewards of the church finances and property, approve the budget, provide for maintenance of the buildings, and assure that the operations of the parish conform to legal requirements and best practices.

Formally, vestry members are required to be adults confirmed in the Episcopal Church and communicants in good standing of the parish. What we look for at St. Andrew's is an individual with a desire to serve, a willingness to listen and to grow in faith, and a lively understanding of how God is calling this particular church.

This year, at our annual meeting on January 28, we elected four new members of the Vestry from a slate of eight candidates. Their biographies are below. Many thanks to these faithful parishioners for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

Many thanks to Senior Warden Matt Bentley, who was elected to serve the third year of his three year term, and to Reese Jameson, who was elected for the first year of a three year term as Junior Warden.



## Ken Backensto

I was born and raised in Mansfield, OH. When I was old enough I helped my Dad take care of my Mom who was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis. Upon graduation from high school I was employed by Westinghouse Electric which was a manufacturer of small to large electrical appliances. In March of 1969 I went to work at The Warren Rupp Co., a small company, where I started out in assembly then moved to the parts and shipping department as the supervisor (I still remember many of the part numbers!). In January 1991, I moved to Colorado the first time. I moved back to Ohio in October of 1991 when I came down with a case of "home sickness". I realized in July of '92 after receiving around 13 inches of rain just how much I missed Colorado. I moved back to Colorado in August and it has been home ever since. I worked for Sturgeon Electric, a large electrical contractor as a buyer and retired from there in June of 2013. I am currently working part time back at Sturgeon as of August 2015 when they asked if I would be interested in coming back part time.

I started attending Saint Andrew's in January of 2009 because I felt something was missing in my life. I took the Catechumenate Class in the fall of 2010 and was reconfirmed in June of 2011. I felt at home from the beginning. I enjoy being a Greeter and I am thinking about taking the classes for becoming an acolyte.

I live in Federal Heights with my two boys (cats) Bugsy and Mugsy who are litter mates.



## Susan Backus

St. Andrew's has been my parish home for 14 years. During that time, we've had a lot of changes including an addition to our building, a new rector, many new members and a Family and Children's Ministry (my great joy!). New changes are about to unfold. Exactly what will occur and when? How will it impact us and how will we respond? The process of change and collaboration with our new partners and residents will be a challenge for me, for us. (To move ahead in faith, to be stretched out of our comfort zone and hopefully to grow stands before us as an opportunity.) Discerning our role, the gifts we bring and the transformation this will bring to St. Andrews will be my prayerful intention and focus as a vestry member. It's daunting and exciting!

My background: retired psychotherapist and educator, Anglican Studies instructor. Diocese of Colorado: Diaconal Training Program facilitator, Board of Examining Chaplains, Commission on Missions, Ordination Discernment. Parish: Catechumenate sponsor, Discernment Committees, former Vestry member, Rector Search Committee, Godly Play teacher and sometimes gadfly. What else? My family (two grandchildren!), friends, my sweet dog, outdoor Colorado, volunteer work, music and travel are my delights.



## Barbara Day

Thankfully, long-time friends Cyn and Tim Croasdaile introduced me to St Andrews in 2012. I moved back to Denver after being away for 30 years and was searching for my new church home. I visited my previous Denver church affiliations but felt like a visitor. I must say at first I was very envious (and a tad intimidated) observing the Croasdailes here at St Andrews surrounded by many close church friends. However I quickly found the warmth and welcoming congregation readily including me into the fold. St Andrews with its beautiful environs, incredible music, rituals, impactful sermons and best of all, its welcoming and caring family, sure felt like home.

As a child, I fondly remember what seemed like a “long” drive from SE Denver to St John’s Cathedral. I loved the grandeur of the sanctuary, my Sunday school and confirmation classes, singing in the children’s choir (especially on Christmas Eve from the balcony) and serving in the Junior Altar Guild for St Martin’s Chapel. When I was in middle school, my family transitioned to Christ Church in SE Denver. My parents have been faithful members of Christ Church for over 53 years and my 93-year-old mother continues to worship there.

I left Denver for the East Coast after graduating from University of Denver’s Hotel and Restaurant Management School. One of my first jobs was at Duke University Dining Halls where I met Cyn Croasdaile. Two years later we both moved to Washington DC where I worked for Marriott Hotels’ corporate office. This first career with Marriott involved lots of moves and finding Episcopal churches with each move. My second career started in North Dakota where I trained, developed and coached managers for SYKES, a global Business Process Outsourcing corporation. It entailed living out of a suitcase in both international and domestic locations. I was fortunate to be able to relocate with that company back to Denver just over 10 years ago. I am happily into my third career now providing companion care and respite care for parents and relatives of good friends.

St Andrews has given me such a marvelous spiritual journey through many opportunities to grow in faith. Catechumenate was such a special learning and exploration time as well as a wonderful way to get to know many fellow classmates that I attended it twice. I am blessed to gain more than I give while serving in several ministries: A Meal that Heals, children’s ministry (both Godly Play and as a nursery volunteer), Family Promise and volunteering at the St Francis Center. I am humbled and honored to be asked to run for vestry. Should I be selected, it would be my privilege to give back to St Andrews by offering my talents to help fulfill its vision and goals.



## Janice Woodward

Growing up, my faith life was continually nurtured by my family and church community—a Disciples of Christ congregation. Chuck and I have worshipped in many different churches and denominations, but I never dreamt that the Episcopal Church would be the place where I felt most at home and could be comfortably challenged to learn, grow, contribute and worship. About 10 years ago, after a move, we ‘discovered’ an Episcopal church primarily because it was in walking distance from our house. And...that was the beginning of my life as an Episcopalian. After moving to Denver 5 years ago, we walked to St. Andrew’s and knew it was the place for us.

At St. Andrew’s, I treasure the beauty of the church, the music, the chance to worship and experience the awesome wonder of God, the community—including the chance to learn, question and have fun together, the mission and the focus on outreach. I have a particular passion for serving others, so I have focused my involvement in that realm. I serve with the Welcome Ministry, the monthly Monday night dinner crew at the Irving Street Residence, and the Family Promise team. I am the Loaves and Fishes liaison to MetroCaring, the contact person for the Book Group (which means that I am the chief ‘door-unlocker and email sender’), and Chuck and I have mastered the coffee pot as regular coffee hour hosts.

In my working life, I have been blessed by holding positions that support underserved communities—I have worked for the American Cancer Society in advocacy and support for underserved communities, as well as taught in numerous correctional facilities and alternative schools. In Denver, I worked for several years at The Gathering Place and for the last 2 years, I have been teaching at an alternative high school in Brighton.

Chuck and I are lucky to be able to spend time with our daughter and her family—and our 2 grandchildren—here in Denver. We also love to visit our son and his wife (and our ‘almost’ 3rd grandchild) in Seattle.

I am honored to be considered for a position on the vestry and would serve with passion, commitment, and love.