

St. Edward's Vestry Candidate Bios 2017

Please take the time to review the vestry candidate bios prior to our voting next Sunday at the Annual Meeting.

DINA ISHLER

My name is Dina Carter Ishler and I am respectfully stating my interest in joining both our vestry at St. Edward's and serving as a delegate for the 2017 Diocesan Convention. It was an honor to serve as both a vestry member and a search committee member at our previous parishes and I look forward to using those experiences at St. Edward's. My husband Patrick and I, along with our three children, have attended St. Edward's since our move to Lititz in 2009. As Faith, Carter and Thomas have grown to an independent age, it is my great joy to have the opportunity to become much more involved in our church community. I worship at both the contemporary and the 10:15 services where I participate in Praise Band and Choir, as well as helping Patrick when he shares music with our young people. These are exciting opportunities for me to utilize my degrees in music, psychology and education. Currently, I consider myself to be actively searching for God as I seek to learn what His plan is for my life in this new season, listening for how He would have me show His love daily in our community and our world.

From my father, I have inherited my birthright of generations of membership in the Episcopal Church, which fostered in me a deeply rooted love of its traditions, its worship and its music. As I seek God in all things, I am learning to combine traditional elements of music and worship with new ideas as I pray earnestly for the church to be a very real sanctuary for all people. I bring to the vestry table a willingness to learn from and listen to others, a strong desire to share ministry and worship, a true work ethic, a lively intellect, and most importantly, a heartfelt gratitude towards God and love for Him. I am eager to serve and thankful for my faith-filled husband and family who support me in all I do. Blessings to you all and thank you for allowing me to serve.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek My face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.

-Psalm 27, vs.11

Faithfully,
Dina Carter Ishler

HERB JOHNSTON

I was raised in the Abington area of suburban Philadelphia. I graduated with a BA degree from the University of Pennsylvania. I also served in the US Army Reserves.

My business career started with The 3M Company. In 1971 I and my family relocated to Lancaster for a business opportunity. Ultimately I retired from JJ Haines and Company in Baltimore, MD after 20 years of service. I was Vice President of Sales and Marketing as well of Strategic Planning and Acquisitions and Mergers.

It seems I had interest in doing service of different sorts. While in the suburban Philadelphia, I served as President of the Erdenheim Civic Association. Here in Lancaster I was a board member and President of The Deerford North Condominium Association and also chaired a committee attempting to construct tennis courts in Manheim Township's Overlook Park. I also chaired a committee for a Judaical candidate running for a judgeship. Finally, I am a longtime member and past board member and President of the Lancaster Tennis and Yacht Club. And sadly, no, I do not own a yacht. However I do play tennis and own a tennis racket.

I am single now and the father of two children Jennifer and Todd. Jennifer has 2 sons, Will and Alex. Todd has one son Cayce.

I grew up attending the Abington Presbyterian Church and thank that church for giving me my religious foundations. In 2012 I found St Edwards to be my new church home. I really enjoy the people of the church, the busyness of activities and outreach programs.

I look forward to serving you on our vestry.

SUSAN LANDIN

At some point in time we are all called to share our story with others – called by Christ, by our faith, sometimes even by our dear bishop – and I'm glad to now have the opportunity to share my story with each of you.

I came to St. Edward's in the late spring of 2012. A close friend of mine brought me to a Wednesday healing service. It was a service of spiritual awakening for me, and this awakening inspired and encouraged my husband, John, and I to become members of the St. Edward's family.

We have attended St. Edward's since that service, a period of time during which I've had the pleasure of chairing the Stewardship Committee, in addition to acting as a member of the parish's Spirituality Ministry, and assisting with further fundraising activities.

Throughout my life, I have cherished my relationship with the Episcopal Church. My family and I have been members at St. James Lancaster, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, and Grace Episcopal Church in Manchester, New Hampshire. At different points, I have been a member of choir, served as a vestry member, chaired fundraising committees, and volunteered with the Anchorage breakfast program with my three young boys. I have had the chance to serve, and it has always been my pleasure.

I hope now to have the opportunity to serve on vestry once more, in an effort to give to St. Edward's all that it has given to me. I seek for us a commitment to the growth of our parish, and continued development of our spiritual health, ensuring that the future of St. Edward's remains strong and secure. We can build on the dreams of the founders of this parish that have become the reality that is St Edward's – the next chapter in our story written in communion with one another – as we walk hand-in-hand into a bright future.

MEREDITH WESTGATE

Many people at St. Ed's know me as "the Krist Kindling" lady. This is a task I took on 25 years ago quite by chance. A few of you may remember Georgia Messmer, who brought this activity with her from a former church. After one year, her husband was transferred. I ran to Georgia in the grocery store and suggested she pass along the information to someone. She rang my doorbell, packet in hand, later that afternoon and the rest is history.

I am a life-long Episcopalian. I was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Olean, New York - my beautiful hometown. Randy and I moved to Lancaster in 1983. Shortly after, we heard about this new Episcopal Church in Hempfield. At the time, we lived on Woods Avenue in the city. We drove "west" looking for this church in the Union Hall. That Sunday was Tim Small's birthday and there was a celebration themed "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with hot dogs and popcorn. We liked the informality of the setting and the friendly people we met, and, I think, the idea of building a church. Tim and Betsy visited us shortly after and we were "sold."

Our four kids all grew up at St. Edward's. Evan is 34. He is a major in the army and currently teaches at West Point. He and his wife Lauren, have a three year old daughter, Caroline. Adam, 32, lives in Lancaster and works for Bill Swiernik as a landscape architect at David Miller Associates. He recently became engaged to Jessica Hoyman. He writes and illustrates children's books (Pawprintstories.com). Aubrey is a writer/editor for a medical magazine. She and her husband Brian live in Glen Rock and are expecting their first child in May. Rosie, our 15 year old, is a freshman at Hempfield High School. She plays piano and violin with the Praise Band and loves singing with the Mennonite Children's Choir.

I retired in June from a 13 year teaching career at Edward Hand Middle School in Lancaster where I taught ESL. Now I love teaching refugees two mornings a week through Church World Services. I am a long-time volunteer Girl Scout leader. I have been married to Randy Westgate for 38 years. He works at Mountville Family Practice as a family doctor and leads the St. Edward's Praise Band.

Besides Krist Kindling, I have worn a few "hats" at St. Edward's. Randy and I led the Youth Group for over ten years when our older kids were in school. I taught Sunday school for several years and served for a time on the Pastoral Care Committee. One year I coordinated Jesse Tree gifts with Social Outreach for needy students at Hand. I served on vestry prior to and after Fr. Stephan's call to St. Edward's and was honored to serve as his senior warden.

With less demands on my time post-retirement, I would like to be more involved again in the life of my church. I was honored to be asked to consider a term on vestry and it would be my pleasure to serve.