

## Nominee Bios

### Vestry



**Elizabeth Maynard**

A child of military and State Department parents, I was born in Thailand and grew up in the United States, Indonesia, and Brazil. I completed undergraduate studies at Occidental College, and graduate degrees in education and psychology at the University of Georgia and Fuller Theological Seminary. During my professional career, I have served as a university professor and department chair (18 years), U.S. diplomat (5 years), and mental health professional (30 years). Most of my teaching years have been spent in faith-based universities, including a stint on the faculty of Loyola University Maryland's pastoral counseling graduate program from 2011-2013. I now spend my professional time as a clinical psychologist serving adults in Houston and around the world through international telehealth.

I first called Palmer my church home from 2004-2011, during which time I met and married my son Russell's father in Palmer's nave (not on the same day, of course), and Russell was baptized here in 2010. We returned to Palmer 2013-2018, before seven years away for diplomatic service. Russell (now a teen) and I returned to Houston in the summer of 2025 and made a beeline back to Palmer. It has been a blessing to return to this community, and I am grateful for the unconditional welcome we have received during this season of life, especially as a single parent. Over the years I have served in a number of roles within our community, including a Sunday school educator, chalice bearer, and committee member for Palmer's process of honoring same-gender marriages. As we settle back in to the community, Russell and I are connecting with both familiar and new activities (ushering, acolyting, bell ringing), and I am ecstatic that Russell has found his own spiritual home base in the youth group here.

I am happy to serve where called, and to wholeheartedly promote Palmer's inclusive mission.



**Andrew Kraebel**

I am an Associate Professor of English at Rice University, where my research focuses on the religious literature of England before the Reformation. Within that field, my particular areas

of interest include the history of Christian liturgy, biblical commentary and translation, and Christian mysticism. My first book offers a new history of the earliest English translations of the Bible, and it was awarded the Ecclesiastical History Society's book prize.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, and I grew up attending a small parish – originally a summer chapel – on the North Fork of Long Island, New York. While in college I spent a semester living and serving as an intern at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square. I went on to earn my MA in Church History from Yale Divinity School and my PhD in English from Yale. During my time in New Haven I was a member of Christ Church, where I served on the vestry, on the altar guild, and as an acolyte.

My wife and I have been attending Palmer since the birth of our second child, Teddy, who was baptized at Palmer – and we immediately appreciated the many things that make this parish distinctive. It is so hard today to find a welcoming and inclusive church that is also committed to the long tradition of Christianity, its liturgy, music, and theology, and where Christianity is seen, not as providing easy answers, but as inviting and equipping people to wrestle with the hardest issues we face throughout our lives. I feel so lucky to be part of a church community in which my five-year-old, Henry, is being introduced to Christianity through these kinds of big questions, and I have been utterly amazed by all that Palmer's children's ministry has offered to our boys, and to my wife and I as parents.

I spend a lot of time studying what the Church has been throughout its history, but I am also committed to serving my church today, and to supporting it with whatever skills, knowledge, or other insights I can offer. I truly believe that Palmer is a unique place, and it is our responsibility to preserve it for the future and do all that we can to enable it to thrive.



**Jackie Campbell**

I was born in Canada, but immigrated at age two with my mother to Galveston, where she was recruited to work as an R. N. at UTMB. We soon found our church home—Trinity Episcopal. After graduating from Ball High, I attended the University of Houston on scholarship, obtaining a B.A in English/Journalism teacher education, and a B. S. in nursing from University of Texas in 1976. I worked as an R. N. for approximately 7 years at St. Joseph Hospital in the behavioral health division, where I met my soon-to-be husband, Larry Root. We married at Palmer in 1983. I decided to change careers once again, and graduated from UT Dental Branch in 1986, working briefly as a general dentist on a fulltime basis. When we started a family, I found a part-time job with PerioHealth Professionals, where I have worked for the past 37 years, and at present, one day a week.

Four years ago, Larry lost his battle with acute myeloid leukemia, but before he became sick, he witnessed the marriages of our two sons to wonderful women and met our first grandchild. I now have 5 healthy grandchildren, a source of much joy.

I've been attending Palmer since 1983, participating in various capacities: enrolled in EFM, served as a Sunday school teacher, on the vestry for 4 years, and on the planning committee for the women's retreat for two years. Presently I serve as a Eucharistic Visitor, a member of the Order of St. Luke, a member of DOK, and a member of the Palmer Visual Arts Council.

My passions include painting and art making, gardening, reading, and visiting my grandchildren.

The guiding principles of Palmer that I most resonate with are liturgical excellence, the beauty of which can move me to tears, joyful companionship found within thriving small groups, and bold curiosity. I'm especially grateful that Palmer is a safe place to explore, learn, ask questions, nurture others and be nurtured.



### **Rob Vines**

I was born in Pittsburgh and attended Cornell University and the University of Illinois before accepting a job at Shell as a rock physicist and moving to Houston in 1998. I joined Palmer soon after I arrived and have been a member ever since. My wife and son are members of First Unitarian, a mile further up Main.

I am a cradle Episcopalian and come from a family of active Episcopalians. My grandmother was a church secretary for fifty years, my mother is a mainstay in the choir and altar guild, and my father is an usher and was the church accountant for years. I served on the steering committee for the campus ministry at Cornell, and in Illinois I sat on the vestry and was part of the discernment committee for a good friend. At Palmer I have at various times been an acolyte, chalice bearer, lector, and electric guitar player for the Mosaic contemporary service praise band. This year I have been serving on Palmer's Membership Council and sat in as a shepherd in this fall's newcomer's class as we welcomed one of the largest groups of new to Palmers in recent history.

Palmer's mission is to know and share the love of Jesus Christ. The liturgy, music, and sermons help me see God's love for us every Sunday, and the people at Palmer show me how to share that love. We do so much here—Archway Academy, outreach to patients in the Medical Center, programs to settle refugees and prisoners, our support of Jerusalem Peacebuilders—through these programs and more, we demonstrate how God works through us to make a difference in the world.

I would be honored to serve on Palmer's vestry as Palmer approaches its hundredth year as a parish.



**Peter Yacoe**

I am a cradle Episcopalian, born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University and started my career 48 years ago as a chemical engineer in Bayport, TX. I transferred to Marshall, Texas where I met and married Donna. We then moved to Oklahoma where we reconfirmed our commitment to the Episcopal church when our son was born 34 years ago. We recently retired to Houston and were looking for our fifth Episcopal Church. We have lived in several states and have attended Episcopal churches in all of them, parishes that were small and large, low and high. On our first visit to Palmer, we immediately knew it would be our new Church. We have enjoyed being actively involved in all the churches we have attended, joining with our fellow parishioners in supporting each other and spreading the good news of Christ. I have had Vestry, Senior Warden, and Treasurer positions. Donna and I have been involved in numerous committees, projects, and Outreach Programs and believe it is important to not only financially support our Church but to give back time and effort.

Carnegie Mellon emphasized problem-solving skills that have been of value throughout my life. If elected to the Palmer Vestry, I will use those skills and the knowledge and experience gained at our previous churches and in other community activities to further the goals of Palmer. I am proud to be a Palmer and want to be a voice of encouragement as I serve alongside you in carrying out our mission to share the love of Jesus Christ with each other and with those outside of Palmer. I commit to doing this with compassionate leadership, love of all people, and fiscal responsibility.



**Camille Emig**

Although I have been in Houston for years now, my family originated from New Mexico, coming from a farming and ranching background. My father decided to forge a different path and shift into the oil and gas industry, which at one point involved moving his wife, two eight-week old daughters (myself and my twin sister), and my two-year-old brother to Dubai for a few years. After working on multiple international projects with family in tow, we eventually moved to Houston where we ended up taking root.

I grew up in the Methodist church on the north side of town and began singing in the choir at an early age. I attended Texas Tech where I received my undergraduate degree in

Advertising with a minor in Vocal Performance. After graduation, I moved back home to Houston and gained experience in advertising and sales support for the golf, steel, and automotive industries over the years. Wanting to expand my knowledge, I decided to continue studying French (which I had a passion for in high school) and received my post baccalaureate at the University of Houston. Life took a different turn than expected at that point, and I received a job offer to work in the world of CRM at Baker Hughes, shifting into oil and gas like my father.

At the same time, I started singing professionally in multiple groups in Houston, including Bach Society Houston and Cantare Houston. In 2002, I came to a Palmer evensong one Sunday evening and fell in love with the sound! I joined the choir on the spot and have been singing as a member ever since.

I met my husband, Brendan (the bearded bass), in the choir a few years later when a fellow choir member was working hard to set us up. We married at Palmer in 2012 and have sung together in the choir, as Maria and Captain Von Trapp in Sound of Music, as Noah and Mrs. Noah in Noye's Fludde, as well as shared several professional singing experiences outside of Palmer over the years, which has been such a blessing. A bonus is my sister, Paige, sings in the choir, too! Outside of singing, I enjoy yoga, playing piano, building Lego sets, and indulging in Brendan's delicious cooking! We also have two rescue cats that are quirky and adorable.

My hope for Palmer is that we continue to support a strong and vibrant music program that I believe makes our church a true jewel in the city of Houston and in the Anglican community as a whole. My second hope is to continue to cultivate what I feel is the foundation of this church - the ideal that ALL are truly welcome. As a member of the vestry, I would be excited and honored to see how I can be an integral part of fostering these two pillars of our church.



**Richard Avant**

I am honored to be considered to serve the people of Palmer. My wonderful wife Heather and I first came to Palmer after we were married in 1993 at the recommendation of a friend. Upon meeting the friendly parishioners and clergy and witnessing the liturgical emphasis, we immediately felt at home. Our twin sons were baptized at Palmer in 1996 and I served as an usher until 1999 when we moved to The Woodlands. Today, our sons are 30 years old and we are so blessed that they are devoted to the Lord.

I have lived in multiple cities around the U.S. and Texas, but have called the Houston area home for nearly 50 years. After receiving degrees from Rice and the University of Texas at Austin, I became a management consultant to the energy industry, working at Deloitte and,

for the last 20 years, as a Managing Director at Alvarez & Marsal, where I founded and led their energy consulting practice. I have served on and led several non-profit and school boards, and have found joy in successfully leading impactful groups in organizational governance. In my career, I have often served in a fiduciary role as well, which I appreciate is a key responsibility of the Vestry.

I was an active member of a very large Methodist church in The Woodlands, where my activities included five years as a choir member, three years as a member of the Administrative Board, one year as a sixth-grade confirmation class leader, and 18 years as a Men's Bible Study leader. We moved into Boulevard Oaks in 2019 and were thrilled to be able to attend Palmer once again. My current activities at Palmer include serving on the Finance Committee, ushering with my wife at the 10 a.m. Sunday services, and participating in the Men's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. I have treasured my time with the men's group and under Neil's guidance.

Since first attending in 1993, I have always had a soft spot for Palmer, likely for many of the same reasons you do. I love the church's warm community, its formal service, its incredible music, its acceptance of all people, and its support of Rice and the Texas Medical Center. But above all, I love Palmer's focus on the Bible. The aspect of Palmer's strategic plan that is rooted in liturgical excellence speaks personally to me. As Christians, I believe it is our responsibility to learn directly from the Word of God, and I feel we are at our best when we surround ourselves in God's Word. At Palmer, I love how The Book of Common Prayer and the Spirit-inspired music frame the service; the Biblical readings are the focal point and the sermon is built around them. Throughout the Sunday service, the clergy teaches us how to serve God and others by speaking His Word, but also encourages us to continue to share and live the message as we walk out Palmer's doors — where others might see and value things differently than we do.



**Scott Sublett**

I welcome the opportunity – and I would be honored – to serve Palmer and all Palmers as a member of its Vestry.

I was baptized and raised within the Lutheran (ELCA) church. While I was born in Southern California, I grew up in The Woodlands.

After high school, we (Sandy, my lovely wife, and I are high school sweethearts) attended and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008. Afterwards, we moved together to New York to pursue our careers. We were married in 2010. Although it took 15 years, we moved back to Houston as soon as we could.



While in New York, we were members of Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ / United Church of Christ). We were attracted to the warm sounds of the organ and choir, and we kept coming back for the warmth of the community and Rev'd Jackson's dynamism. Initially, I served on the Finance Team – in addition to day-to-day financial oversight, we structured governance and managed a substantial endowment. Shortly thereafter, I was elected to the Ministry Council (i.e., a Vestry-equivalent).

Sandy and I decided to move to Houston in 2018 – it felt best for us and Eila who was two years old at the time. She's now nine and sings in Palmer's Children's Choir. Shortly thereafter, River, who is the only Texas-native among us, was born. She's now six and also sings in the Children's Choir. Notwithstanding my weekly commute to New York until 2020, we built a home here. We had joined Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Bellaire; at the time of a pastoral transition, we took the opportunity to explore other Houston churches.

Our family began visiting Palmer in early 2023. Immediately, we felt at home. It was clear to us the congregation embraces and lives shared values of Love, Joy, Curiosity and Inclusion, which align with how Sandy and I try to live our lives and raise our children. Rev'd Neil, Rev'd Ryan, Roger and countless others welcomed us – we made friends, and our minds and our hearts were full. For what it's worth (and we are consistent), we also love the beautiful organ and choir. We officially joined Palmer in 2024.

While we feel new to Palmer – we believe we have learned the ropes: we cherish the community and hospitality, we look forward to service and enriching our own learning, we eagerly await our next musical, and we are faithful participants in the weekly Parents' Group. Perhaps most importantly, at Palmer I feel wrapped with God's unfailing love.

Professionally, I invest and help manage a portfolio of private equity and illiquid investments on behalf of a family office. In this capacity, I have served as a director or observer of numerous boards. Personally, I love to hike, grill and spend time with family and friends.

### **Diocesan Council**



**Anne Stinson**

I was born in Pasadena, Texas, second oldest of seven children. Our family was active in in all aspects of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and we formed lifetime bonds with other parish families there. As an adult, I was active at St. James Episcopal in Conroe and St. Paul's

Episcopal in Katy. After earning a B.S. in Education from Stephen F. Austin University, I worked as a teacher, employment representative and supervisor, corporate trainer, and human resources manager. During the eighties I experienced quite a few layoffs (every 18 months), a situation that could cause a less optimistic person to doubt her worth! But God always led me to another job where I could use my past skills and learn new ones.

I found Palmer in 2024, through my sister-in-law Joyce Dutcher, a long-time member. She had convinced me to move from Brenham, Texas, to be nearer family after my husband of 35 years died. I was so impressed by the church architecture, the wonderful music, the professional choir, and coming back to the beautiful liturgy. Most of all I was drawn to the warm reception I received as a new parishioner.

There are so many programs and activities available at Palmer. I love the fellowship/information of Dinner and Discussion and Senior Group outings, the community of the Women's Retreat and the Palmer Family Retreat, the challenge of our yoga class, the techniques learned from the Photography group and insight from Reel Theology, the spiritual growth and understanding from Teatime Bible Study, Spiritual Formation, Newcomer's Class, Sacred Ground, the Meditation group, opportunities for outreach and other special events at the church.

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate to represent you at the 2026 Diocesan Council and am eager to learn more about the ministries of the church at that level. If elected, I will do my best to share my experience with you.



**Denise Allen Zwicker**

A cradle Episcopalian from Waco, I served as Palmer's lay delegate in 2020/21 and 2023/24. I take the role seriously and attend the precouncil convocation in Houston. However, I will not be disappointed if I am not elected.

I'm a lector, wedding coordinator, Palmer Assisting Re-entry (post-prison ministry). I participate in the Women's Spirituality Group, Palmer 7s Women's Bible Study, Palmer Meditators, Palmer Photographers and Palmer Writing Group. Each summer, I "shepherd" Jerusalem Peacebuilders campers at Camp Allen.

A Palmer since 1989, I sang for 15 years in the Palmer Adult Choir and helped lead the Episcopal Church Women, Home Repair Days, and Dinner and Discussion. Long ago, I taught Sunday School. A (now retired) freelance writer, I've written Palmer brochures, website copy and publicity materials. I have sweated on Palmer/diocesan service trips to Honduras (two), New Orleans (two) and Galveston.



I am divorced, with two married children (Laura, in Pittsburgh, and Paul, in Houston) and two granddaughters (Clare and June). We are very close. I have driven them and myself from Sugar Land to Palmer's many activities and services since moving from inside the Loop in 1994.

I just can't leave this place well enough alone.



**David Wallace**

I am a "cradle" Episcopalian, born in Houston in 1964 and baptized at St. John the Divine. I attended and graduated from St. John's School, went to Princeton University, where I studied English, and then returned back to Houston to teach English and coach sports at St. Johns. Shortly after I began to teach, I met Cindy Jones, who would later become my wife. When Cindy said "yes," I decided to go back to school and enrolled at South Texas College of Law here in Houston. With Cindy's tremendous support and encouragement, I finished my degree and got my law license and then practiced law at a small probate law firm in Houston for seven years. I left that practice in 1998 to become a bank trust officer, first for Wells Fargo Bank and more recently for JPMorgan Bank. I retired in mid-2024 and have been enjoying having time to travel with Cindy and time to garden, exercise and cook.

Cindy and I were married at Christ Church Cathedral in 1989, and both of our sons, Rivers and Reece, were baptized at Palmer. Our family attended St. John the Divine until 2004, when we chose to join the congregation at Palmer. We chose Palmer because of its warm and welcoming community and the openness of its faith dialogue. Palmer has been our home ever since. Recently, in 2023, Rivers and his fiancé, Shannon, were married at Palmer. Rivers has enjoyed being active in the Children's Ministry and Shannon is currently serving as a member of the Vestry. Cindy, Reece, Rivers, Shannon and I are also currently enjoying acting as an usher team for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

I am honored to have been asked if I would stand for election to be a Lay Delegate to the Diocesan Council. If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to serve and become more deeply engaged with the welcoming community at Palmer.



**George Thomas**

Palmer has been an integral part of my life since joining in 1998. It's where I met my wife, Sheeba Thomas, where we married, where my daughter Asha was baptized, and where we held my mother's funeral. Needless to say, Palmer means a lot to me and my family and

proved to be a place where my faith has been nourished and nurtured. Over the years I've been part of Serve Sunday, ushered and participated in Palmer's Sound of Music production.

My father was a vicar in the Church of England, so my Anglican roots run deep. I understand our faith tradition, not just from a purely religious perspective, but also how a parish church operates individually and as part of a larger faith tradition. This is why I feel called to serve as a Palmer Delegate to Diocesan Council.