



PALMER MEMORIAL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
— HOUSTON, TEXAS —

# Vestry & Lay Delegate Nominees

FOR THE ELECTION DURING THE  
ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024  
11:00 AM

EARLY VOTING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the main worship space of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 21, 2024, following the 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist, the following persons are nominated to serve on the Vestry of the Congregation and to serve as Lay Delegates to the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. All nominees have consented to their nominations and have given assurance that, if elected to the offices or positions for which nominated, they will serve faithfully.

Children and youth will be able to participate in supervised activities after the 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist while parents attend the Annual Meeting. Following the Annual Meeting, a luncheon will be provided for everyone in the Parish Hall. The nursery will also be open for childcare needs during worship, the Annual Meeting, and the luncheon.

### **Vestry Nominees**

*Five persons are to be elected to serve three-year terms, 2024-2027.*

Wendy Wight

Betty Wilson Key

Rosine Wilson Hall

John B. Wallace

Diane Martin Quast

SarahAnn Vroman

Mary Ann Starks

Tom (Tom) Christian Van Arsdel

Sheeba Koshy Thomas

Neil (Ken) Alexander

### **Lay Delegate Nominees**

*Two persons are to be elected to serve two-year terms, 2024-2025, and two persons will serve as alternates for one-year terms, 2024.\*\**

George Alexander Thomas

Sarah Mesko Breckbill

James (Mac) McKenzie Hall

Denise Allen Zwicker

**\*\*Each year the Congregation sends four Lay Delegates to the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. James (Jim) Meade Lober and William (Bill) Robertson, the Congregation's two Lay Delegates elected in 2023, will complete their two-year terms with their service in 2024.**

## VESTRY NOMINEES



### WENDY WIGHT

I was raised in the Boston area. I have been married for 30 years to Jim Meyn, high-school sweetheart. I have two daughters, Liberty Meyn 19, Julia Meyn 24. My professional vocation has been residential Real Estate since 2015. I am an artist. My work consists mostly of landscape paintings and collage.

The guiding principal that most resonates with me is "Joyful Companionship and Bold Curiosity." I do believe that we are meant to be together and share our journeys in our faith. This is not a private endeavor and certainly should not be lonely. The path of faith is a welcoming one and I believe we are all together. I have a lot to learn and plenty of room to grow. When I am in a faith community such as Palmer there are opportunities for me to share my faith and add to my knowledge of scripture and tradition. These are important aspects of my faith journey. Hearing about others in their faith emboldens me. I am less fearful.



### BETTY WILSON KEY

I was born in Galveston and raised in La Marque, attending St. Michael's Episcopal Church where my husband Jim and I were married 56 years ago this December. After graduating with a degree in math from the University of Texas, I was a programmer for IBM at NASA during the Apollo Project. I later worked in Jim's ophthalmology office for 27 years and am now retired. We have 52-year-old twins who are married and have provided us with 4 wonderful grandchildren. I enjoy reading, travel, cooking, fellowship of 2 book clubs, Galveston, and any time with family and friends.

In January we will have been attending Palmer for 56 years except for a 2-year hiatus to Pensacola for Jim's Naval service.

Past Palmer involvement: taught Sunday School for 20 years; was a founder of Stephen Ministry, Daughters of the King, Walking the Mourners Path, and Dinner & Discussion at Palmer; served on Vestry (twice); was a Stewardship Chair; and am an EFM graduate.

Current Palmer involvement: a facilitator for Walking the Mourner's Path, committee member for Dinner and Discussion, Daughters of the King member, Eucharistic Visitor, usher, Sacred Ground participant, and Bible Study participant.

Past Diocese of Texas involvement: member of the Diocesan Executive Board, the Camp Allen Board, and the Episcopal High School Board (twice); and member of initial steering committee for Episcopal High School.

Community involvement: Was president of Parents Associations at Poe Elementary, Lanier Middle School, and Episcopal High School, weekly Casa de Esperanza volunteer for over 30 years, and past Civic Association president.

The Guiding Principle and Value that most resonates with me right now is Bold Curiosity. Palmer has provided the sanctuary for my on-going spiritual growth. My faith has matured and continues to grow because I was fed here intellectually by sermons, Sunday and Wednesday classes, EFM, and Bible Studies; and fed spiritually by our liturgies, beautiful music, and the Daughters of the King commitment to prayer. All the while I have been surrounded by a host of Palmer pilgrims who have inspired me, prayed for me, cared for me in difficult times, shared joyful times, and allowed me to question. Then I was sent out with other Palmers to share this love through Stephen Ministry, Walking the Mourners Path, refugee ministry, Serve Sundays, Loaves and Fishes, and so many other experiences. This is what I wish for everyone who comes through our doors.



## **ROSINE WILSON HALL**

I've been at Palmer since 2018. I'm a cradle Episcopalian; when Mac and I moved back to Houston, we tried several churches, and at the recommendation of our son, the Rev. Patrick Hall, who was serving at Autry House, we settled on Palmer.

In terms of background, I was born in Beaumont and was baptized at St. Stephen's. In high school, I chose to attend St. Mark's instead. Mac and I attended Rice and actually met over 50 years ago at Autry House. After graduation, we attended St. James Episcopal Church over in 3rd ward for about 20 years. I worked in Houston while pursuing my Ph.D. at Rice in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; it was granted in 1993. After several years as a postdoc, I accepted a faculty position at Auburn University Montgomery in Alabama. We attended Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter there for over 20 years. I retired as professor emerita in 2018.

I have served as a choir member for over 50 years, Sunday School teacher, Sunday school superintendent, canvasser for Every Member Canvas, EYC sponsor, numerous terms as a vestry person, three times as junior warden, DOK member and president, ECW member, Altar guild member and Head (head for 10 years in Alabama), several terms as council/convention delegate, member of various Diocesan Committees, and on at least one rector search committee. Patrick attended St. James School, and as President of the School Board, I assisted St. James in raising over a million dollars for a school building.

The Palmer Value which most resonates with me at this time in my life is Joyful Companionship, along with Bold Curiosity. The Palmer's Bible Study epitomize combining both. My guiding principle as a vestry member would be to seek as much information as possible, listen to what folks have to say, and prayerfully to do what is right.



### **JOHN B. WALLACE**

My wife Connie and I have been Palmers for over 30 years. We joined when our two children were young. I hadn't darkened a church door other than for Christmas and Easter since starting high school. We found a community here and stayed. I'm currently active in the men's Bible study and Sacred Ground group, as a chalice bearer and acolyte, with Angel Tree and JPB, and as a minor support in the refugee resettlement ministry.

I grew up in Galveston attending Trinity Episcopal Church. Connie and I were married at Palmer before we became members. I worked as a lawyer my whole work life, about a third of my career as a trial lawyer and two-thirds working on appeals. I spent my last three years as a full-time lawyer in what we called the appellate group at the City Attorney's office. Our son, Nick, lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Freida, and works for a start up in the energy conservation field. Our daughter, Anna, lives here and recently returned to school for a master's degree in library science. We have two rescue dogs known as "the girls," Ginger and Maddie.

The principle of service resonates most with me. At my age, as time in and on God's beautiful earth gets shorter, service with, of, and from others appeals. I don't have a long bucket list and have lived a fortunate and privileged life.

Palmer parishioners serve through Palmer and outside of Palmer. We are served by one another, by our clergy and staff, by our choir, and by others. I wrestle with how I encounter and possibly serve or accept the service of others in a relational rather than a transactional manner. Part of it is showing up as equals; being present to opportunities; acknowledging the humanity of those serving us in stores, coffee shops, restaurants, etc., by talking with them rather than ignoring them in favor of the social media din; listening; and giving each other grace to make mistakes. The Spirit leads us into new service adventures when we take the time to reflect, something I don't always remember.



### **DIANE MARTIN QUAST**

A graduate of Texas Christian University with a degree in International Affairs and post graduate courses in business and real estate, I worked for two international companies in Fort Worth prior to moving to Wisconsin for two years, then to Houston. After moving to Houston I worked in administration, was a residential realtor, and subsequently retired as Operations Manager of an independent residential real estate company. I am a member of the Houston Junior Woman's Club, a Lifetime Member of the Western Art Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and a volunteer with the Houston SPCA.

I have been an Episcopalian since high school in Fort Worth. I was confirmed at All Saints' Episcopal Church and was active on the Altar Flower Guild; I worked as Secretary to the Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church when I was in college; and later was a member of St. Luke's in the Meadow. When I moved to Houston I joined the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany where I was a member for 40 years. I served on the vestry, sang in the choir, was a chalice bearer, lay reader, a member of ECW, and participated in a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico.

I began visiting Palmer around 2013 with my future husband, Don Quast, and officially transferred my membership in October of 2021. I have served on the Wednesday Night Cooking Team, sung in Brady's summer choir, and participated in a mission trip to San Jose, Costa Rica. I currently am a lay reader and a substitute volunteer in the Reception Office of the church.

The Guiding Principle and Value that has resonated with me from my youth is the liturgical excellence of the Episcopal church, the beauty and power of our liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition. That we sit to listen, stand to sing and kneel to pray, and reverence the cross and the body and blood of Jesus in our presence are important traditions I have been practicing since I was confirmed and have grown to love even more as an adult.



### **SARAHANN VROMAN**

I've heard and talked to so many Palmers in my (short) time here to realize that being a "Cradle Episcopalian" isn't necessarily unique. However, to say I was born into the Episcopal family of faith is not an understatement. I was born two months before my dad graduated from seminary. I'm proud to say that I didn't find a religion based on tenets

of our faith, but I was given the gifts of it for my whole life.

Growing up, my father was primarily a hospital chaplain (as my sister notoriously explained to her friends about why our dad worked holidays – 'people are in hospitals on Christmas too!'). I spent some time attending hospital chapel services as well as attending regular parishes – all the while attending Catholic grade school because there were no other parochial schools available.

All of my teen and high school years were spent in a town with only 3 Episcopal churches, but a Baptist one on every corner. As I transitioned from my youth into adulthood, I tested more popular waters with friends, but never felt as home or in Communion with Jesus or church than when I experience the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist. I used to say, that was a great message – now when is church?

Fast forwarding to when I reached a crisis point in my young adulthood and started attending Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Waco. What I found there was a community that lifted me up when I needed it and allowed me to grow as an adult, a woman, a wife, and a mother. When I started dating my husband – there wasn't so much a consensus, but a declaration – THIS church, THIS faith, and THIS community is part of me. (I'm thankful he agreed!) That church in Waco, TX is where my husband was confirmed, where we married, where all of our children were baptized. It is also where I realized that I was so thankful (and lucky) that the Episcopal church found me.

I am thankful for the inclusiveness that the church holds, not just with diversity, but in sharing the sacrament of Communion.

I moved with my husband (as empty nesters) to Houston in 2021 and it was a little bit of a culture shock. I had 3 churches I could choose from in Waco and everyone knew when you changed and speculated as to why so we never had many options. Consequently, we spent quite a few months "church shopping" with so many choices in Houston. One weekend I said – "let's try Palmer". My husband and I walked in and both of us felt chills on our skin. The Holy Spirit really is alive in our parish. I felt it immediately. I do not think I've visited any other church since that first visit in the winter of 2021. It took me quite a bit longer to officially join. Changing your membership after more than 24 years is hard, but by October of 2022 I wanted to be an active and full member of this church that seemed so vibrant and welcoming. Since joining, I have had the opportunity to serve as a lector and enjoy the fellowship of women's retreats and parish retreats. I'm so thankful for the church family that we have found here.

One of the guiding principles I feel so grateful to have found in this church and parish is "Spiritual Sanctuary". I know that I am, and each of my unique and blessed children, are made in our Creator's image and fully accepted in this faith and communion. I am very thankful I never had to question or wonder – "Can I love people as they are and not worry about God's judgment?".

Although I am still relatively new to our Palmer parish, I hope that you can see that I have found and am thankful for being bound to Jesus' grace and understanding



and seek ways to demonstrate that to others, through my words and actions. In Matthew 5:16, just after the Beatitudes Jesus tells us, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." In other words, live your life in a way that if someone does not know the love of Jesus Christ, through knowing me, they would know God. It's a lot to live up to, but that is something I try to do in my actions.

I would be honored to be a member of the Vestry at our church and bring my unique perspective as a long time member of your body of faith, although only being a member of your parish for a short time.



### **MARY ANN STARKS**

I was a Quaker when my friend David Scott insisted that I come to Palmer because he felt I belonged here. After several arguments, I relented and went to a Wednesday night dinner and Lectionary Class. Then I attended the 11:00 o'clock service with David the following Sunday. I was hooked, was Baptized at the Palmer Easter Vigil in 1983 and have been here ever since.. Eventually my parents were both buried here along with David and many other friends in the Columbarium, my future home!

The guiding principle, in my personal life and in the practice of law for 42 years, has been to do my best to be a follower of Christ. At Palmer, my primary focus has been on Prayer, Pastoral Care, formation of personal and corporal Spirituality, and Outreach. I have served in many capacities over the years including the Vestry, the Endowment Board, Altar Guild, the Kitchen Guild and belong to the Order of the Daughters of the King and the Order of St. Luke the Physician ("OSL," healing prayer). In 1995 I trained as a founding Leader of Stephen Ministry at Palmer, in 2000 I was certified as a Spiritual Director by Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington DC, and last May, I graduated from Mac Hall's wonderful EFM class.

Currently I continue to be active in Daughters of the King, the Order of St. Luke, as a Stephen Leader and Minister, as Chairperson of Palmers Assisting Re-Entry (post-Prison assistance through the Prison Entrepreneurship Program), on the Women's Retreat Committee, and the Palmer Outreach Council, as a Lay Reader, in Bible Study and as an in-prison minister through Bridges to Life. I am honored to be a nominee for the Palmer Vestry this year along with the other wonderful candidates.



### **TOM (TOM) CHRISTIAN VAN ARSDEL**

I joined Palmer in 1996. Over the years I have served on the Vestry, been Junior Warden, served as Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, Sunday School teacher, and ministry co-leader for the New Hope Sakowitz Serve Sunday outing.

I grew up in central Pennsylvania, and was raised in the Episcopal church. Soon after arriving in Houston in 1995, I started attending Palmer at the invitation of a friend. It has been my church home ever since. I have practiced trial and intellectual property law at Winstead PC since 1998. I married my college sweetheart, Kristie, and we have two children who have been involved with various ministries and activities at Palmer their whole lives.

All the guiding principles are all foundational to our community, and all of them have had resonance with me at different points. But the one I think about the most is Bold Curiosity. I'm proud that we are a faith community that is not afraid to ask questions and support each other as we search for answers. In a world that seems to drawn to easy answers, we're not shy about asking complex questions and being at peace when we reach different conclusions. I've always loved that about Palmer!



### **SHEEBA KOSHY THOMAS**

I've been attending Palmer since 2003 after being introduced to the church by a choir member. I was new to Houston back then having moved from Philadelphia to start my hematology oncology fellowship at MD Anderson.

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I was looking for a vibrant parish to join. I chose to become a member of Palmer because I loved it from day one. The clergy and fellow parishioners made an effort to make someone new like me feel welcome, and it was heartwarming to see how committed the parish was to serving the community. For instance, through the program that served breakfast to Houston's homeless for so many years. In the years that have followed my husband George and I both met and married at Palmer and our daughter Asha was baptized here. As a family, we serve as ushers and Asha has served as an acolyte.

By God's grace my family and I have enjoyed many blessings such as good health, a comfortable home, friends and family and we know how important it is to share both our time and our blessings with those around us. In that vein, the guiding principle of Palmer that resonates with me is loving service. I try to live out this commitment to service both in my work as a medical oncologist at MD Anderson as well as through the community service that we do as a family both through and outside of Palmer. It would be my sincere honor to serve on the vestry of Palmer. Thank you.



### **NEIL (KEN) ALEXANDER**

I am a Rice and Harvard Law School graduate. Susan and I have lived in Houston since 1978, when we returned following graduate school and married at Palmer. I've been a partner at Porter Hedges LLP for thirty years. I'm a native Texan and cradle Episcopalian. We raised our three sons at Palmer, who served as acolytes, and two of whom married at Palmer. Our granddaughters were baptized at Palmer.

I've served on the Vestry twice under Rectors Jeffrey Walker and Jim Nutter; chaired the Finance and Stewardship Committees and served on a Rector Search Committee while a Vestry member; served on the Stewardship Council several times, including this year; served as a Palmer Chancellor and currently as Chancellor for the Palmer Endowment; and serve on the Friday Night Dinner & Discussion Committee and hosted several of those occasions. I am a layreader, chalice bearer, and Serve Sunday worker. Known to wear a kilt at Kirking of the Tartans.

My largest volunteer commitments have been at Palmer, and as a Scout leader for 29 years of Troop 55, including as Scoutmaster, and along with Susan for the Scouting program at Yellowstone Academy.

Palmer's Values and Guiding Principles well-define what is Palmer. For the Vestry, Loving Service should resonate most. I've learned from Vestry, Finance, and Stewardship Committee service that most of the hands and feet of Christ are those of parishioners. The Vestry is key to getting that vital, hard work organized and supported. Neil, Ryan, and the staff alone cannot do it. In my time here, I've seen Palmer grow, and struggle, and grow again. Palmer needs to grow; spreading the Gospel is at the core of being Christian.

Palmer has often unintentionally hidden its light under a bushel. Palmer's worship, music, education, service, preaching – and fun - is a story properly put on a lampstand to bring people into the light. I'd like to help the Vestry spread that vision in everything we do.

## LAY DELEGATE NOMINEES



### GEORGE ALEXANDER THOMAS

I was born in the United Kingdom and lived there till my family emigrated to Houston in 1983. My father was a Church of England vicar, so I'm a son of the Cloth! I attended Rice University and then The Washington College of Law of the American University in Washington, DC. I have spent almost all my career "in house" and have thoroughly enjoyed working with clients from enterprises both large and small. My most significant leadership role has been serving as president of the Houston chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, an organization of over 1,100 in house lawyers. I'm married to Dr. Sheeba Thomas, whom I met and married at Palmer, and we're blessed to be the parents of Asha (14), who was baptized at Palmer and is an active Palmer in her own right! She's currently at boarding school in New Hampshire.

I first came to Palmer in 2000 when I bought a house in Westbury. I immediately went church shopping, fully intending to try several congregations till I found the one. My first stop was Palmer as my sister was a member. I felt an immediate connection to Palmer, and after the first couple of weeks at Palmer, I realized that I didn't have to continue the search. At Palmer I've been a participant in Serve Sundays, the musical last summer, and my family and serve as ushers at the 9am service.

The guiding principle and value that resonates most to me right now is Liturgical Excellence. A brief mention of my upbringing might explain why. My father was a Vicar in the Church of England, so I was truly a cradle C of E/Anglican. While our church didn't use the original Cranmer Book of Common Prayer, we did use an only slightly updated version, bound in a little red book. I vividly remember using and reading that book (yes it's was challenging), along with the hymnal filled with wonderful songs both ancient and (relatively!) modern.

conversations during the few weeks before the pandemic began. I attended council again in 2021—on Zoom from my backyard!

I am VERY excited about all five of Palmer's recently adopted values and principles. I especially appreciate how all five of them are linked by unconditional love. They stress building relationships, not only with those who think and worship and act and vote like we do--but also with those who do not.

I believe that the job of a lay delegate is to help spread that love—a manifestation of God's grace—in an ever-widening circle. One that extends far beyond the boundaries of our diocese.



### **SARAH MESKO BRECKBILL**

I'm honored to be nominated to run for Lay Delegate. I've been a member of Palmer since 2012; I originally moved to Houston in 2008 to study Vocal Performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice. I'm currently active in the Women's Tea Time Bible Study, OWL for adults, the Shawl Ministry, Worship Council, attending Women's Retreats, and — most dear to my heart — the Lector Ministry. I was raised in churches where women were not allowed to lead or serve — not as preachers, acolytes, or readers — so reading at Palmer and training our lectors has played such an important role in my healing from those early experiences. I'm an opera singer and a voice actor, so communicating through words is my greatest joy in life!

I am most drawn to Palmer's value of Spiritual Sanctuary. Palmer's commitment to being an inclusive community has been such a safe, healing place for me to continue as a person of faith. The highlight of my 2023 was walking in the Pride Parade with fellow Episcopalians, after spending several years wondering if I still wanted to be a part of this thing called "Christianity." Because of Palmer's value of loving everyone, no exceptions, I can give a resounding YES to that question!

I currently live in Pearland with my husband, Jeremy, who is a writer, creator, and all-around-wonderful human being. My most influential spiritual teachers are Richard Rohr, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and Jim Finley; my favorite singers are Freddie Mercury and Brandi Carlile; and people love playing pickleball with me because I smile and laugh so much!

When I'm at Palmer, and I hear the same sacred words, and sing the same glorious hymns, I'm filled with nostalgia, and connection to those days, but also a sense of joy that these words and tunes have relevance today. They uplift the spirit and remind us that there are millions of people across the world sharing this same experience, bound by an invisible thread. When I hear our magnificent choir, my heart is uplifted, and I leave with inspired.



### **JAMES (MAC) MCKENZIE HALL**

I have been at Palmer for almost five years. I am an almost-life-long Episcopalian; however, my real involvement in the church began when I attended the Episcopal chapel at Autry House while a student at Rice. After Rice my wife Rosine, son Patrick, and I attended St. James church in the third ward for twenty years. We then moved to Montgomery, Alabama and were members of the Church of Holy Comforter for almost 25 years. After retirement, Rosine and I returned to Houston in 2018 and, at the strong urging of Patrick, gave Palmer a try. We have been active in each of the churches we attended. I have served as vestry member, junior and senior warden, and delegate to diocesan council in both in the Diocese of Texas and Diocese of Alabama. I am an Education for Ministry graduate and have been an EFM mentor for around 20 years. In Alabama I attended Cursillo and was involved in Kairos prison ministry for 10 years. At Palmer, I am an EFM mentor, have been involved in other adult formation activities, and participate in Palmers Assisting Reentry. I attend the men's Bible study on Tuesday mornings.

The Guiding Principles and Values that most resonate with me are Joyful Companionship and Loving Service. I mention both because, for me, they are inseparable. I count invitation, welcome, and acceptance into the church communities as grace in my life, and I believe I am called to offer that grace and the love of Jesus to others as witness to the work of the Holy Spirit.



## **DENISE ALLEN ZWICKER**

I've been a member of Palmer since 1989. I was married then, with a 2-year-old daughter, Laura, and another baby on the way, my son Paul.

In those early, childrearing years, I taught the toddler Sunday School class with Carter Crain and helped lead the Episcopal Church Women with Lesley Douthwaite, Home Repair Days with Burdette Keeland and Rob Mosbacher, and Dinner and Discussion with Mary Tobin. Later, I sweated, with my children Laura and Paul, on Palmer/diocesan service trips to Honduras (two), New Orleans (two) and Galveston.

I've sung in Episcopal and other choirs all my life. I took a leave of absence from that time-consuming role when my children were young and singing in the children's choirs. Later, I joined Palmer's short-lived treble choir. When my daughter Laura joined the Adult Choir in 2001, I did, too. Choir rehearsals require an average of about four hours a week, so that was the bulk of my volunteer time from 2001 to 2016. (I now sing in a symphony chorus.)

Since leaving the choir, I have increased my involvement in other Palmer ministries: Today, I'm a lector, wedding coordinator, refugee helper, and Palmer Assisting Re-entry (parolee ministry). The pandemic and Zoom spurred my participation in the Palmer Meditators, Palmer 7s Women's Bible Study, Education for Ministry. I continue to enjoy the Palmer Writing Group, now also on Zoom. Each summer, I "shepherd" Jerusalem Peacebuilders participants at Camp Allen and Palmer.

A freelance business/marketing writer since age 24, I have written and proofread for Palmer publications on many occasions: brochures, website, publicity and more.

A cradle Episcopalian, I grew up in (Southern Baptist!) Waco. My parents were super-active founding members of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. I followed suit, first as a teenager in adult choir. Soon, I was volunteering for many activities—especially after I married in 1974, moved to Houston and joined the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

A 2020 council alternate, I replaced Palmer delegate Suzanne Miller, who was recovering from major surgery. In the pre-council convocation and at council, I learned a lot--especially about new diocesan programs advancing equitable health care and racial justice. I described these to Palmer parishioners in

