



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Transfiguration

2017 Vestry Candidates

Parish Elections
October 29 & 30, 2016

Vestry members are elected for three-year terms.

Requirements for Candidacy:

- 18 years of age or older
- Confirmed and communicant in good standing
- Faithful steward of record (financial and personal) for at least one year
- Regular attendance in public worship
- Demonstrated commitment, responsibility and experience in Transfiguration parish life
- Able to pass Diocesan criminal background check
- Agree to complete all Safe Church required online training by start of Vestry term

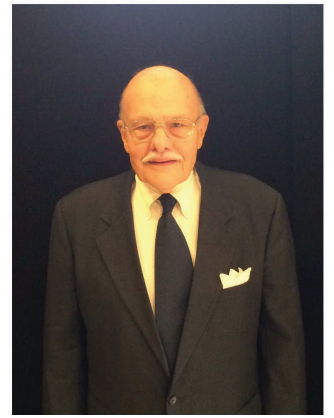
Names of Candidates:

9 nominees, 4 open spots

- George Bienfang
- Scott Daniels
- Frank DeLizza
- Bitsy Hardman
- Roy Heller
- Nancy Jagmin
- Bart Stockton
- Julia Trizzino
- Evan Williams

Vestry Candidate: George Bienfang

Years at Transfiguration: 45 Years an Episcopalian: 61
Spouse/Partner name: Catherine (Deceased)
Children and ages: George III (62); Anne (60); Nancy (54)



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Vestry; Senior Warden; Facilities Warden (now Junior Warden); 11 years as Endowment Fund Trustee, 3 of which were as Chairman; Usher 25+ years; EMF Board member (God knows how long); EMF pastry cook; On behalf of EMF have delivered more than \$50,000 worth of Tom Thumb donated groceries to Holy Cross Catholic Church (an extremely poor parish) in south Dallas.

Past churches: St. Mark's (Shreveport) Usher; Asst. Boy Scoutmaster
St. Paul's (Shreveport) Usher; EMF cook

Diocesan: (Dallas) Received the "Golden Nail Award" from Bishop McPherson as Transfiguration's chair for our financial and construction contributions to the first Diocesan Habitat House

National church:

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: USAF fighter pilot (4 years); Aetna manager & general agent (30 years); Insurance agency owner (30 years)

Community and professional activities: Chartered Life Underwriter (C.L.U.) since 1961; Member and Director of Dallas Insurance Agents Assn.; Received "Service above self" award from Richardson Rotary Club 2013; Director RRC+

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry? Please see Parish, Diocesan, and Professional activities above.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources? We should "continue" to be a leader as an open and welcoming parish where we are accepted as who we are

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

When Catherine and I moved to Dallas in April of 1971 with two teenagers and a pre-teen, Transfiguration was a natural fit: welcoming, growing, active, with a youth program and an adult softball team. St. Elizabeth's moved from home to home and involved 8 or 9 couples. It felt good and we stayed.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

This is a really, really hard question. Basically, I try to conduct myself as though my mother and grandmother were watching me from heaven. Catherine is now added to the mix. I fall short. A lot!!

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

I try (not always successfully) to figure out the right thing to do, disregarding popularity, and then do it.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

Try to think a situation through, pray for guidance, try to act accordingly, keeping in mind while most prayers are answered, the answer is not always "yes."

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

I have had the Vestry experience before. It was a good experience. I hope I made a meaningful contribution. I would like to do it again, providing it is the will of the congregation.

Vestry Candidate: Scott Daniels

Years at Transfiguration: 15 Years an Episcopalian: 27
Spouse/Partner name: Divorced Children and ages: Doug, 26;
Sarah 24



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Member of the parish library committee. Helped organize two Kay Andrews Book Review Forums (*Life of Pi*, *The Kite Runner*). Active in the Episcopal Men's Fellowship.

Past churches: Member of Good Shepherd Episcopal (Dallas), 13 years; Vestry member, 3 years; Member of parish profile committee to call a new rector — edited final profile document. Lay Eucharistic Minister, 2 years.

Diocesan:

National church:

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Copy Editor, Creative Services Group, Ernst & Young LLP (EY), 2 years; Magazine editor and writer, National Office Boy Scouts of America, 33 years.

Community and professional activities: Participate in EY's CollegeMAP program, mentoring South Dallas high school students to be first in their family to attend college. Represent EY at the Earth Day Texas festival at Dallas Fair Park; Volunteer Scout leader; Served as treasurer, vice president, and president of the Bel Air of Josey Ranch Homeowners' Association (5 years total). Brought nationally known author and speaker Michael Gurian to Greenhill School to address parents on "The Purpose of Boys."

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I've spent my professional life as a journalist, writing and editing articles for national publication. Many of these features involved young people, boys in Scouting and young men and women in the BSA's Venturing program. As many parents can attest, this is a tough crowd to warm up for an extended conversation. And I had to ask a lot more than "How was your day at school?" To elicit more than one-word answers to questions about, say, a thrilling white water rafting trip, I had to establish rapport, gain trust and listen. All three are important, but listening tops the list.

How often do we as adults engage in conversation, only to be thinking of the next thing to say while another person speaks? By active listening, I believe I can learn more, ask better questions and ultimately provide greater service.

I believe my communication skills, the leadership positions I've held in my neighborhood homeowners' association, my prior Vestry experience at Good Shepherd Episcopal, and my commitment to community volunteer activities will help me to be a faithful and effective Vestry member at Transfiguration.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

The core of Transfiguration's strength is certainly its Mission Statement, which in part reads, "to seek and serve Christ in all persons." What a powerful, bright, and guiding light! We celebrate the diversity of "Many members, one body."

Our parish has so much to be thankful: the many parishioners who make our weekly worship possible, our fantastic facilities (and paid for!), our outstanding music ministry and the Transfigured Nights program, the breadth of Christian formation offerings, and of course, our clergy, who through their sermons challenge us to hear (yes, listen) to the Good News that is Christ in our daily lives. And not just in our lives, but in the lives of our neighbors, and those who don't look like us or live like us or speak like us, indeed those who suffer and are far less fortunate than us.

As one of the five largest parishes in the Dallas diocese, it's difficult for those who attend different services to know one another. My want is for more opportunities to get to know one another through quarterly parish-wide events. I also know we are a welcoming church, but it takes effort. If you don't recognize someone in the pew next to you, introduce yourself. It may be embarrassing to discover they've been a member as long as you have, but now you know a name.

Youth and education are two of my passions. Indeed, Fig's youth ministry is what brought my family to this parish. Let's champion these areas at Transfiguration. It's also my hope that we can devote resources to bring an additional clergy member on staff.

Evangelism and Episcopalian aren't two words often heard in the same sentence. Let's redouble our efforts to grow our parish among all constituents, and not just those who live north of LBJ. And finally, as a parish, let's use our influence at diocesan convention to work toward unity with the greater church in issues that separate the few from the many.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

My family came to Fig because we were looking for an established church youth program for our two children. We found it here and both children benefited greatly. I've stayed at Fig for its inspiring services, thought-provoking Christian formation, its magnificent music ministry and welcoming fellowship.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I'm curious by nature and love opportunities to learn more about the Episcopal tradition and my Christian faith. This could be through reading a new book in the church library, attending an Old Testament Sunday school lesson, an EMF presentation or a discussion around the great composers of sacred music. I'm not shy, and I'm usually the person raising his hand to ask a question.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

This is a pretty simple answer — I pray. I have the same, simple, child-like faith today that I grew up with attending Sunday school and summer VBS. I try to consider how my decision will affect me, as well as those around me. I pray for wisdom and guidance. Have all my decisions turned out to be winners? No, they haven't. But I hope I've learned something in the process.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

I try my best to reflect the Christian values I grew up with and to live them every day. I talk with others about the Episcopal Church, Transfiguration's Mission, and Fig's outstanding programs, whether it be youth mission trips, EMF gatherings or music recitals.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

Service is a central part of my life. I grew up in a youth group that emphasizes character, leadership and a strong code of conduct. I worked many years for an organization that has volunteerism as its bedrock. I love my church and I've seen such amazing things accomplished in the last several years. The future excites me and I want to contribute my gifts and talents to help Fig realize its fullest potential in seeking and serving Christ in all persons.

Vestry Candidate: Frank Delizza

Years at Transfiguration: 5 Years an Episcopalian: 37
Spouse/Partner name: Barbara Children and ages: Paul 35 and
Spouse Kristen, Christopher 30 and fiancé Becca, Alison 26 and
spouse Jeff 3 Grandchildren Ashleigh 14, Matthew 6, Madeline 1



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: EMF Board, St. Elizabeth's, LEM, Thanksgiving Square, Habitat, Foyers, Lenten Dinners, Adult Ed, Greeter, Transfigured Nights, Angel Tree

Past churches: Vestry (Pohick, VA), LEM, Lay Reader, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Chair Church Fair, Blood Drives, Habitat, Alpha Participant and Leader, Small Groups, Young Married & Singles, Building Committee, Vestry Lead for Air Conditioning Historic Church.

Diocesan:

National church:

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Mass Transit Systems Engineer/Program Manager

Community and professional activities: Boy Scout Leader, Youth Soccer, IEEE/ASME Standards Committees, Licensed Professional Engineer (5 States)

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

The ability to listen to and help understand differing opinions and points of view. The experience of having served on a Vestry and in wide range of Parish activities in different places. Understanding the needs to live within the Parish Budgets, yet serve all the diverse needs of the congregation, and still support the Diocesan and National Church functions and obligations. The ability to work with different groups within the Church and serve the needs of the Congregation. The understanding, as an engineer and manager, of dealing with aging infrastructure, while accommodating new and changing statutory requirements and the needs of an evolving and changing congregation. I have served in churches ranging from one built by George Washington to new start-ups, and catered to the needs of congregations that have included mixes of mature to new parishioners.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

I think that Fr. Casey and Mother Erin have been doing a good job in attracting new parishioners into Transfiguration. We seem to be experiencing growth in all demographics (Gen X, Y and Millennials, as well as some Boomers), while many of our senior and legacy parishioners are naturally becoming less active for various reasons. These demographics all have somewhat different needs and interests. So we must consider the development of activities and programs to support a diverse parish population, both as age, generation or interest specific, but more importantly as combined across our common faith and love of Transfiguration.

We must also accept the fact that our physical plant is aging and that some systems may be life expired and will need refurbishment or replacement.

Fr. Casey has also called upon us to become more socially relevant and active in the community. This has already become more apparent in such outreach efforts as our food pantry and partnership with St Phillip's school and with local school programs.

I think we have seen a significant improvement in our religious educational activities for the parish family, both young and old alike. We should identify new offerings, such as EFM, to continue to improve our catalogue of offerings, and to help develop our parishioner's faith and understanding. All of these things require resources of staff, parishioners, facilities and money. So I think it will be important for the Vestry to revisit and update some our demographic information, as well as embark on both long term and short term planning to create a new vision for Transfiguration and where we want to go and how are we going to get there.

What led you to Transfiguration and why have you stayed?

We were looking for a new place to worship that had a more meaningful worship service and better music, as well as better opportunities for education and ministry. We found those and more, including wonderful fellowship and opportunities for service.

In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

There are several ways: reading and studying; attendance at adult education classes; fellowship with other Christians; thinking about how to put everyday things, including local, national and world events into a Christian context; being a servant as well as a leader or manager.

How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

Prayer and meditation, discussions with others, thinking about the concerns of others – not only myself.

How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

Being given the opportunities to be of service to others. Listening to and trying to put sermons into context. The educational opportunities have given me a broader and deeper understanding of our faith and its historical context.

What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

I have been asked to serve at Transfiguration before, but always said no because of my work commitments. So it seems it's time to answer the call and serve in any way I can make a positive contribution. Having served on Vestry before in a previous parish I realize the demands, yet realize that I am being called to serve a purpose. I think the parish is still in a developing and transitional mode, and look forward to helping define and implement the vision of what is next in store for us.

Vestry Candidate: Betsey Hardman

Years at Transfiguration: 5 Years an Episcopalian: Born and raised!

Spouse/Partner name: Jody Children and ages: Jennifer Hardman Scarborough (41), Aubrey Hardman (37), Morgan Hardman Larkin (34), Blake Hardman Hull (34)... and seven grandchildren (3-15 years old)



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration:

- St. Hilda's membership chair/communications officer/secretary, 2013-present
- Clothes Horse volunteer, 2011-present
- St. Elizabeth's Guild Co-chairman, 2012-14 and currently
- Parish Council member, 2012-present
- Parish cookbook committee organizer, 2014
- Foyer co-chair, 2013-14
- United Thank Offering Chair/outreach committee member, 2014-present
- EMF Fish Fry and Auction volunteer, 2015-present
- Austin Street dinner team volunteer, currently
- Quarterly Thanksgiving Square Sunday service/lunch volunteer, currently

Past churches:

St. Paul's (Lubbock)

- Vestry member 88-91
- Women of the Church Secretary/Vice President/ President, mid 80s
- Parish fellowship dinners chair, mid 80s
- St. Pat's Guild officer, 80s
- Thrift House volunteer, 80s
- Kitchen pantry committee member (what we would call parish pastoral care), late 80s

St. Marks (Beaumont)

- Parish Chili Dinner fundraiser chairman, late 70s
- Guild member, late 70s

Diocesan:

- Convention delegate, mid 80s

National church: NA

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation:

I have a MBA from The University of Texas at Dallas, a Masters in Communications from Texas Tech University and a BS in Journalism from Boston University. Semi-retired after 20+ years as a corporate communications executive, I have worked for Texas Instruments, EDS and HP. Responsibilities have spanned strategic internal and external communications as well as change management communications support for mergers, acquisitions, and organizational transformations. In 2008, successfully led the communication efforts for a major corporate Service Line in support of the largest acquisition in the history of the IT services industry at the time (\$38B, 210K employees). Currently a certified online instructor for the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, teaching graduate courses in corporate and organizational communications.

Community and professional activities:

- Past member International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)
- Recipient of the IABC Silver Quill Award of Excellence, two team Bronze Quill Awards and a team Gold Quill honorable mention
- Past member and officer of Women in Communications (WICI)

- WIKI college faculty representative at Texas Tech University
- Corporate United Way representative, mid 90s
- Girl Scout co-leader, mid 80s
- Church camp counselor, early 80s
- PTA president, late 80s/early 90s

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry? Proven leadership qualities, excellent communication and negotiation skills, previous vestry experience, deep-seeded faith and commitment to the church, strong work ethic.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

In General

On a very simplistic level, I see the activities that make up the life of the church as a three-legged stool, with the weight distributed relatively equally across all three legs to maintain the stool's balance. The legs that support the stool include spiritual ministries, parish ministries, and outreach ministries. Given this very simplistic analogy, I think we are doing an awesome job spiritually, a very good job on our outreach ministries, and a good job with parish ministries. For greater balance, the latter two legs may need additional attention.

Specific Strengths

- **Our diversity** [parish ministries], treating all people with equal respect. In particular, I think the various programs within the church address the needs of the different age and interest groups, and offer everyone an opportunity to participate in church life and ministry. I have especially liked the value placed on youth ministry and the way we involve our youth in both spiritual and parish life.
- **Our music** [both spiritual and parish ministries]. Not only on Sunday, which in and of itself is amazing and a definite draw, but the various concerts and special programs throughout the year that provide a cultural opportunity for our parish and the community.
- **Our Christian formation** [spiritual ministries]. From Godly Play to the wide range of adult classes and programs offered, there is something for every age, and always an opportunity to learn from the scriptures and gain spiritual insight to help lead more Christian lives.
- **Our outreach and charitable contributions** [outreach ministries]. As it should be, this is an important part of our church life, as seen through Austin Street, Thanksgiving Square, Food Pantry and our ministry in support of the Bhutanese refugees, to name just a few.

Specific Areas for Improvement

- **Pastoral care** [parish ministries]. While there are, as noted, many programs to address parish needs, there are some that are no longer offered that may need to be revisited or, perhaps, re-thought altogether to address those needs while continuing to accommodate – and promote – our changing demographic.
- **Outreach**. This is both a strength and an area that needs our continued focus and prayerful consideration. While there are many needs within the greater community and beyond that would benefit from our contribution and volunteer services, our time and resources – and those of our parishioners – are limited. I applaud the work of the Outreach committee, which seeks to better understand those needs in order to minimize the peanut butter approach in favor of more impactful outreach activities.
- **Parish-wide activities** [parish ministries]. People choose a church home for many reasons. As a 'cradle Episcopalian' who has been relatively active in church life throughout the years, an important consideration for me when selecting a church has been its parish life. It needs to be dynamic, purposeful, and all-inclusive. The Episcopal liturgy that I love can be found, for the most part, at any Episcopal church; but the feeling or sense of community is what makes one Episcopal Church stand out from another, in my experience. While I think we have come a long way in this regard and are working on this aspect of church life, I also think there is more we can do to continue to foster that sense of community.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

Many years ago, when we lived in Lubbock, I would come to Dallas to visit my brother, who lived near the FIG. I would drive by the church and admire its buildings, but never attended a service. Years later, we moved to Allen. I was with Texas Instruments then and remember seeing a car with an Episcopal sticker drive into the parking lot. I asked the driver where she attended and thought it was such a coincidence when she named the only church I knew of in the Metroplex! I should have realized then that this wasn't just a coincidence. But Allen seemed just too far away... We continued to visit other churches in our area, but never found our church home. Then, more years later, my daughter moved close to the FIG; but this time I thought, this can't be just another coincidence, there must be a greater plan here. So we attended a service... and another... and another... drawn back by the music, the service itself, the abundance of opportunities to grow spiritually; and, perhaps most importantly, by the warm, friendly welcome we received. My only regret is that I didn't heed the call years before.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I don't think it's possible to grow and nurture your faith in a vacuum. At least, it isn't for me. Rather, I believe the more I participate in church life and contribute my time and talents in support of church ministries, the more opportunities for spiritual growth present themselves. I find my inspiration in the faces of the families we help at the Clothes Horse, the indefatigable faith I see in the eyes of the homeless at Sunday services in Thanksgiving Square, and the genuine smiles of gratitude from those we feed at Austin Street. God speaks to me through all these people.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

The simple answer is, of course, I pray... but it's actually more than that. I don't think it's the act of praying for guidance itself as much as it is *what* I pray to God for that matters. At the end of the day, any decision I make is mine, so my prayers revolve around those capabilities I need to make that decision... the objectivity to see more than one side of an issue, the courage to step outside my comfort zone, the commitment to seek out and consider diverse perspectives, the strength to stand by what I believe yet the flexibility and willingness to find the best solution.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

I really don't see much difference between this question and question two. Because my discipleship of Jesus Christ IS one in the same with what inspires my faith. The only thing I wish to add to what I've already written above relates to something Father Shobe wrote in a recent newsletter about "the call on our lives as disciples of Jesus [is] to be practitioners of kindness, courage, and compassion." He went on to note what God cares about "is the quality of your life – the depth of your life, the scope of your life. God wants you to be truly, fully, authentically alive." I think I understand... for, while I may not be in my comfort zone when I travel out of the safety of my neighborhood to feed the hungry, I have never felt more energized and useful. In keeping with Christ's teachings, I will continue to strive to become "truly, fully, authentically alive."

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

First, let me say, I was humbled by the nomination. I will also say, my decision to accept took a great deal of prayerful consideration. Having been on a vestry previously for a large parish church, I know very well the depth and scope of the commitment. It is not a responsibility to be taken lightly. Eventually, three considerations led me to accept the nomination: First, my devotion to this church and its parish community. Second, my desire to give back to the church for the spiritual growth I have experienced through its services, programs and ministries, as well as the abundant blessings I have enjoyed as a member of its parish family. Third, my sincere belief that my abilities, talents and experience can be an asset to the vestry and would effectively contribute to the leadership of this parish. As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, I see huge opportunities for us to continue to grow in all aspects of church life, and I am eager to help our parish pursue its vision for the future.

Vestry Candidate: Roy L. Heller

Years at Transfiguration: 6 years Years an Episcopalian: 25 years
Spouse/Partner name: The Rev. Amy G. Heller
Children and ages: Noah, age 19; Annie, age 16



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration :

Sunday School teacher, Licensed Eucharistic Minister, Minister of Ceremonies, former member of the Vision Forum, former co-chair of the Liturgical Transition Committee.

Past churches:

Christ Church, Episcopal -New Haven, CT -1989-1999

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church -Dallas, TX -1999-2004
The Episcopal Church of the Ascension -Dallas, TX -2004-2009

Diocesan :

Former teacher for the Hispanic Ministries Program, Diocese of Connecticut
Former member of the Board of Examining Chaplains, Diocese of Dallas

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Associate Professor of Old Testament, Southern Methodist University, Dallas
Community and Professional Activities :

Serve as Chaplain and am a member of the Executive Team for Camp 0-AT- KA, Sebago, ME (Summers, 2007-2016)

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I am a thoughtful and careful listener. I have a thorough and nuanced understanding of many aspects of Christian theology, Church History (particularly the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church), as well as a mature and critical perspective on the use of Scripture in its informing the Church concerning God's will. I am, at heart, a compassionate and caring person and try to mediate various positions. I am a peacemaker.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

Transfiguration is a dynamic and engaged presence within the North Dallas community. We are truly a church that faces outward, seeking opportunities to serve in the larger world. We also clearly have an amazingly rich and beautiful liturgical tradition, as can be seen in our worship services and in our musical offerings.

One of the weaknesses of the church in the recent past was that a small percentage of the members were involved in most of the ministry of the church. Under Fr. Casey's leadership, this is definitely turning around; more of our members are feeling comfortable and empowered to fulfill the hallmark of the church: To seek and serve Christ in all persons. This trend must continue.

Finally, we must continue to serve as an example of a truly welcoming and diverse parish for not only our community, but for the Diocese of Dallas and for the larger Episcopal Church, as well.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

In 2000, my spouse, the Rev. Amy G. Heller, accepted a call from Parish Episcopal School to be their new Head Chaplain. Since Parish was a partner and outgrowth of Transfiguration, it seemed natural that we would count it as our home parish. I have remained at Transfiguration primarily because of the rich and beautiful experience of worship that I find here.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I am constantly engaged in the intersection between Scripture and the complexity of life. I am constantly challenged (and I challenge myself) to think seriously and deeply about how the Bible informs, comforts, and challenges us in our lives and in our world. This is not just an academic enterprise; it demands a deep and consistent life of prayer. It also requires honesty and, more often than not, a good dose of humor.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

Primarily, I focus my mind and heart upon the central call of all Christians: to love God completely (with mind, emotions, and actions), to love others as Christ has self-sacrificially loved them, to seek humbly and generously to live in harmony with others and within the world. With these in mind, I then ask myself which course of action can more assuredly bring about those goals, that is, the Kingdom of God. I confess I often misjudge or am hindered by ignorance in my decisions, but my ultimate goal is to bring God's reign nearer.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

To be honest, the first thing that occurs to me when I read the question is the amazing music ministry that Joel and the other members of the choir bring to us all, week by week. Very, very often hearing a piece of music and being transported by it can do what a month of study or discipline cannot. The music therefore feeds me and helps me to go out and to "do all such good works as [God] has prepared for us to walk in."

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

It was, to be honest, not my idea. I was approached by several different people, asking me if I would consider it. After praying about the responsibility and commitment, I believe serving on the Vestry would be a positive gift that I can provide for a church that I love so much. I believe the next few years will be an exciting and pivotal time in the future of Transfiguration as well as of the Diocese of Dallas, and I humbly am willing to bring whatever gifts and graces I might have to bear upon that time.

Vestry Candidate: Nancy Jagmin, Ph.D.

Years at Transfiguration: 25 Years an Episcopalian: 28
Spouse/Partner name: Richard Dickerman Children and ages:
Stephen Dickerman, 27

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration:

- Usher
- Labyrinth Facilitator
- Flower Guild
- Daughters of the King
- Adult Education teacher (Sunday and weekday)

Past churches: N/A

Diocesan: N/A

National church: N/A



Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Spiritual direction and teaching spiritual formation

Community and professional activities:

- On the faculty of HeartPaths, a three-year program leading to a certificate in Spiritual Direction
- On the Board of Spiritual Ministries Institute, a non-profit organization that offers speakers, programs, retreats, etc. to support ecumenical spiritual formation.
- Chair of the Networking committee, supporting the ministry of spiritual direction among DFW area directors
- Serve on the Outreach committee, which provides trained spiritual directors to be compassionate listeners for staff doing frontline Christian outreach.
- Serve as an individual spiritual director to Transfiguration parishioners and others
- Design and lead training and retreats

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I hold a Ph.D. in Organizational psychology and I have spent most of my career supporting organizational effectiveness. My experience as an HR executive and as an executive coach and taught me a lot about how organizations really work and how to get things done with other people. I have worked in many leadership roles and I have experience setting an agenda. Throughout my career, I have been known for my listening, speaking, and collaborative skills.

In my current work, I support spiritual formation in my work leading study groups, planning and leading retreats, and supporting the spiritual journey of others by serving as a spiritual director/companion. I feel I have learned to listen for the Spirit in the lives and stories of the people I work with.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

Transfiguration has a long history as a church known for beautiful liturgy and music. The quality of the preaching is also unusually high, being often both scholarly and inspiring. Thus, I feel that the excellence of the worship experience is a strength that should continue to define us. I also believe that few churches do "fellowship" so well. Parishioners and visitors alike get to experience the best in hospitality when we host special events and receptions. In addition, a significant number of people are part of one or more groups in the parish, formal and informal, which help to sustain them on their spiritual path and their life journey.

With a strong foundation in worship and fellowship, I believe that Transfiguration is at a point where we can more fully live out the Christian vision.

1) While Transfiguration is a warm and welcoming parish, I feel we have experienced some of the

challenges a large parish faces when trying to create true connectedness. I think we could explore more opportunities to intentionally build small groups to support spiritual formation and ensure that no one feels that they are finding their spiritual path alone.

2) In recent years we have begun an emphasis on outreach, but I think we still have lots of opportunity for growth. I would hope that all parishioners continue to grow into the joy of being a disciple, living their faith by meeting the corporal and spiritual needs of others.

3) Evangelization is a word that makes many Episcopalians uncomfortable, but we are all called live out the Christian message. Besides bringing people to Christ, by taking a stand for Christian values, especially at a time in history when Christianity frequently is being satirized, trivialized, and attacked. Some of the speakers we have hosted have helped us to explore these challenges. I think we can do even more to help parishioners consider how they are called to love and serve.

4) We also need to take the necessary steps to maintain our church buildings, which have served us so well and need attention in many areas.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

I visited several Episcopal churches when we moved to Dallas. I kept coming back to Transfiguration because of the beauty of the liturgy and music and the quality of the preaching. I stayed for those same reasons for many years. Since I retired I have more time to participate in more parish activities and I feel a bigger part of the parish community as a result.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I have a daily prayer practice, which includes scripture reading, contemplation, and time to consider daily meditations from three different sources.

I am inspired and formed myself by teaching topics around prayer, contemplation, and spiritual formation. I am humbled and inspired every time I share the faith journey of another as part of a spiritual direction relationship.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

The most important part of my prayer is a daily Examen, by which I prayerfully consider how God was part of my life throughout the past day, experiencing gratitude and praying for understanding. Moments across days sometimes become significant when they form a patterns that suggest insights into choices I have made. When I am making a big decision, I seek moments in the day which shimmer with insights into the path I should take.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

In the course of a busy career I was frequently consumed by activity. I counted on Sunday mornings to bring me back to myself, to what was really important. Besides the worship, preaching, and the Eucharist, I attended a few courses over the years that seriously influenced my faith and my call to discipleship, most notably five years of Disciple bible study. Being involved in a couple of contemplative groups and facilitating groups of people who came to walk the labyrinth helped me learn to pray and listen for God. My experiences with teaching and leading prayer eventually spurred me to retire in order to devote more time to this type of discipleship.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

I had considered running for Vestry before, but I always decided that I was too busy. I have finally gotten to the point of, "if not now, when?" I am intrigued by the prospect of learning more about parish activities and the inner workings that I may be unaware of. Finally, I am drawn to the idea of "giving back" to the parish that I love.

Vestry Candidate: Bart Stockton

Years at Transfiguration: 8 Years an Episcopalian: 9
Spouse/Partner name: Brant Erwin Children and ages: only dog children!

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Transfiguration Choir, Transfigured Nights

Executive Committee (current Treasurer),

Gay & Lesbian Fellowship (Soup Supper, dinner host, YouthFirst),
neXtgen, The Way

Past churches: Adult Choir (St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont TX), Chancel Choir (Calder Baptist Church, Beaumont TX), Hospitality Committee & Greeter (Christ Community Church, Beaumont TX)

Diocesan: None

National church: None



Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: REALTOR/Associate Broker/Instructor at Dallas City Center, REALTORS.

Community and professional activities: President of Texas Real Estate Teachers Association (past positions include Conference Director, Membership Director, Secretary, President-Elect). Past board member of the Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society (church liaison, Publicity Chair).

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

Analytical & communication skills, detail-oriented. Experience on various governing boards.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

Increase attendance and membership along with pledging. Get more people involved in lay ministry. Increase visibility in Dallas and North Texas. Attract and retain talented clergy and staff to better distribute responsibilities of operating the parish and pastoral care. Increased outreach to the community. Be an effective witness to the Diocese of Dallas in demonstrating fulfillment of our Baptismal covenant.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

Strengths: people, liturgy, music, mission & vision to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Weaknesses: visibility and name-recognition, aging physical plant e.g. Niles building, pledging

Areas to Devote Resources: Branding, visibility, name-recognition. Attraction/retention of qualified staff and clergy. Encouraging volunteers and training lay ministry, e.g. acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, The Way leaders, and altar guild to increase participation across the parish. Increasing financial support across the parish at all levels.

What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

When I was preparing to move to Dallas in 2008, part of my process was to visit a different Episcopal church each Sunday that I was in town. Each church I visited seemed to have a specific target demographic, e.g. families with children, LGBT, immigrants. I wanted a more rounded experience with "all of God's people" under one roof which is what I experienced each time I attended The Fig. Also, music is a huge part of the worship experience for me and while other churches had acceptable choirs, the Transfiguration Choir inspired me Sunday after Sunday.

In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

As written previously, music is a huge part of the worship experience for me so choir rehearsal and independent music study are wonderful times of inspiration and reflection for me. I am also a "church nerd" so I enjoy researching the why's and how's surrounding what we do as Christians and Episcopalians.

How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

I research the facts, debate the pros and cons, and consider tradition, reason, and experience. I listen for God's voice both in myself and in others.

How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

Transfiguration is truly a church that seeks to serve Christ in all persons. It has been inspiring to see all of the ministries at the Fig to both members and the community.

What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

I was approached by the committee as a potential nominee which is both flattering and extremely humbling. I am excited about shaping the future of Transfiguration to meet the needs of our congregation, community, diocese, and beyond.

Vestry Candidate: Julia Trizzino

Years at Transfiguration: 22 Years an Episcopalian: 47
(cradle)
Spouse/Partner name: Darren Children and ages: None

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Transfiguration Choir: 2005-Present; Budget and Finance Committee member: 2015-present; Youth group sponsor and Sunday school teacher 1995-2005

Past churches: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, West Lafayette, IN - Vestry (Clerk), Choir; St. Luke's, San Antonio; Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio - youth group sponsor; Canterbury Association peer minister, Trinity University; St. John's McAllen

Diocesan: Diocese of West Texas: Senior staff and Jr. Counselor at Camp Capers; Vocare rector; Happening staff and rector

National church: none



Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Senior Program Manager, Raytheon Company - responsible for managing cost, schedule and technical performance and customer interface for various contracts

Community and professional activities: volunteer for North Dallas Shared Ministries, Women Unlimited LEAD (Leadership Education and Development) participant, mentor, Raytheon Women's Network (RWN)

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

My job the last several years has given me a lot of experience reviewing financial performance against budgets, identifying and addressing risks and opportunities, reviewing and generating reports and ensuring my team has everything they need to be successful. I've learned what questions to ask to ensure I understand what's going on. As I have been learning through my participation on the Budget and Finance Committee, a lot of the skills I've developed are directly applicable to the management of the parish. Before becoming a manager, I was a 6 sigma expert and a process engineer before that. The roles involved running projects focused on problem solving / process improvement based on data analysis. I would bring that viewpoint to the vestry - always thinking about what we can do to improve or get from our current state to achieve our future state vision. I understand the importance of diversity and value the opinions and contributions of everyone. This is especially important for the church - to ensure we're hearing the voices of all our members. I have also spent several years working with church youth and believe we need to actively promote and encourage their participation in all aspects of church life.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

Transfiguration truly tries to live up to its mission to "seek and serve Christ in all persons". We are an inclusive and loving community, we love music and a good sermon. We are improving our community outreach, but we could do better with that. I think we sometimes get too wrapped up in our own concerns rather than reaching out to serve others. We are a large church and have many many groups that people can participate in, but the size makes it challenging to feel like one community rather than several smaller independent ones. I'd like to see us expend more of our resources on community outreach and activities to help bring the parish together.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

When I interviewed with Texas Instruments, they flew me in from the Purdue airport (which is very small). It was December and I ended up being stuck in Dallas over the weekend due to weather. I looked up Episcopal churches in the yellow pages (it was that long ago) and when I saw the address on Hillcrest, I knew I could get there from my hotel. I attended the service and loved it. Once I accepted the job with TI, I was happy to go back to the church I had visited. I loved the music, the liturgy and the sermons. Once I learned Transfiguration was the first church in the Diocese of Dallas to ordain a female priest, I knew I didn't have to look anywhere else! I met some great people and began actively participating in the life of the parish.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I enjoy singing in the choir, read the Bible and occasionally books by theologians, pray and volunteer

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? through prayer and listening

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? It's important to strengthen yourself so you are able to better serve others. Participating in the choir and worship helps give me the foundation I need for service to others.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility? When I was asked to consider it, I had been thinking it was time to start sharing some of skills I've picked up from work with the church. Although I've always participated actively and used some of my other talents (with youth and music), I realized there were some of my gifts / skills I hadn't been using for the good of the church. Service on the vestry would give me an opportunity to do that.

Vestry Candidate: Evan C. Williams

Years at Transfiguration: 4 Years an Episcopalian: 7
Spouse/Partner name: Jessica Williams
Children and ages: James – 6; Caroline – 4; Ben – 2

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Member of the Stewardship Committee; Co-Leader of The Way (Adult Formation Class); iParent

Diocesan:

N/A

National church:

N/A



Professional Life and Activities

Occupation:

I am a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP, where I practice law in connection with the formation and operation of private equity funds. I also focus a portion of my practice to pro bono matters in family law (more particularly, matters related to children).

Community and professional activities:

Community activities – In addition to the time spent at Transfiguration, I coach my oldest son's YMCA flag football and soccer teams.

Professional activities – I am an active member of the Association for Corporate Growth, a professional organization dedicated to working with investors, executives, lenders and advisers to grow middle-market companies. I am also a member of the D/FW Financial Services Counsel group as well as the Texas Hedge Fund Association.

What gifts, talents and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

The skills that I have developed in my career should bring value to the Vestry. Generally speaking, I am working with clients on a daily basis to analyze and work through issues in connection with improving the operation of businesses. More specifically, I spend a good portion of my law practice counseling clients, including boards of directors, on matters related to corporate governance, fiduciary duties and operational best practices. I believe that this experience should translate well to service on the Vestry. In addition to my work experience, my wife and I have three young children and this church is as important to them as it is to us. I think that is an important perspective to have represented on the Vestry.

Personal Vision for Transfiguration over the next three years.

I think the next three years are a crucial (and exciting) period in the life of our church. We have spent the past few years working through a transition and the groundwork has been laid for a bright future. My vision for this future is collaboration between the clergy/staff and the laity to continue to find ways that we can continue to increase ways in which our church as a whole seeks and serves Christ in all persons. I think this is a blend of (i) continuing to foster the welcoming and tolerant environment we have created (and working with the Diocese on reducing roadblocks for that environment); (ii) finding additional opportunities for local community outreach and (iii) continuing to build our membership numbers (particularly as young families continue to increasingly move into the area).

What do you see as strengths, weaknesses and where/and to what should the church be devoting its resources?

We do a lot really well but what makes our church truly special is the people. We are blessed to have a phenomenal clergy that possess different but very complementary traits. They, along with our staff and members, have committed to making our church a place that welcomes all, which has fostered a warm and loving churchgoing experience. I believe there is nothing more important and will do what I can to support that.

Weaknesses? Lack of donuts, perhaps? In all seriousness, if I had been asked this question a couple of months ago, my answer would have been a need to increase interaction between the Vestry and all members but the Vestry has now been reaching out to members to do exactly this. I think that is very important and would like to continue to find ways to refine and improve that line of communication.

I think the resources are being focused in the right areas – staffing and childcare, formation, music and capital maintenance and improvements are all things to come to mind that the church is already very focused on. Something we are working very hard on in the Stewardship Committee is finding ways to increase the resources that are available for deployment – stay tuned for this year's campaign!

What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

When my family moved back to Dallas from Chicago in 2011, we started attending the Church of the Incarnation in Uptown but found that we were not establishing meaningful relationships with other people (put another way, it was just too big). So, we started looking around at other Episcopal churches in the area. I spoke with Jeremy Teeple (he and I have been friends since college) and he suggested that we check out Transfiguration. We immediately fell in love with the church and haven't looked back. We have built the meaningful relationships we yearned for. Two of my three children have been baptized here (and all three have grown up with Doris). It's home.

In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

I have found that the biggest impact on my faith is increasing my intellectual understanding of the message of Christ, so I try to read up on various topics and to learn from others (which is easy at Transfiguration – the diversity in the faith backgrounds of our membership gives us a rich variety of perspectives on scriptural interpretation).

How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

I ask and I try to listen. Seems simple enough, but can be tough at times. I think that's why my favorite phrase in the BCP is "I will, with God's help."

How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

That's an easy one. Transfiguration has given me the opportunity to be an active member of the church, which has really helped my faith grow. For example, working to teach The Way has had a profound impact on my faith. It has not only deepened my personal understanding of the teachings of Christ and the importance of our Episcopal traditions, but it has given me the privilege of experiencing that journey with groups of wonderful people (everyone from Father Michael to longstanding members of our church to new candidates for baptism). I am forever thankful for that.

What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility?

The initial draw was that certain people I love and respect in the church (and who love Transfiguration as much as I do) suggesting to me that I would be a good candidate for Vestry leadership. The faith and confidence they displayed in what I offer really led me to deeply consider the possibility. As I thought and prayed more about it (and I have thought and prayed A LOT about it), I came to the realization that this would give me the opportunity to serve a place that means so much to me. As I mentioned earlier, it's home.